

ILLUSTRATED TIMES

REGISTERED AT THE GENERAL POST OFFICE FOR TRANSMISSION ABROAD.

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No. 193.—Vol. 7.

LONDON, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1858.

PRICE 2½D.—STAMPED, 3½D.

THE INDIAN PROCLAMATION.

THE quiet and matter-of-fact tone of this important state paper is calculated, at first sight, to disappoint people—but this is a superficial feeling, and reflection will show that, altogether, a better document could not have been put forth. No doubt, something more spirit-stirring, more stately in style, more striking, might have been easily prepared; the temptation was obvious; and the result would have been more noisy. Yet, when we soberly study and weigh what has been said, we shall be conscious of qualities still rarer, in its composition, than the showy qualities. The occasion was very serious and delicate. A change of government had to be announced at the close of a mutiny and during the wind-up of a war. A policy had to be indicated. Much had to be compressed into a small compass, and a business air, withal, to be preserved throughout. The tact shown in hitting the proper medium is extreme. All *Orientalism* is most wisely eschewed—for our strength lies in our Northern qualities, and these have their own natural forms of manifestation as distinctly as Eastern qualities have. The Mussulmans and Hindoos would have despised an attempt to mimic their phraseology; while the sober, earnest, massive phrase actually employed awes by its very homeliness. We seem to accept the position with perfect self-possession—to transfer the rule from Company to Crown as quietly as we would cart a sum of rupees from Benares to Calcutta—and to use the fortunes of war discreetly and reverently. There is something in this quiet which awes barbarians, as the Quakers who founded Pennsylvania awed the Indians, and the use of it on this occasion argues the nicest judgment and discernment. England hates the "bulletin" style. She likes her generals to achieve the *Veni, Vidi, Vici*, without telling the result in an epigram. And that Lord Stanley (whom we may assume to be responsible for the document) should have so happily reflected the national tone, is another of the many proofs he has given of his real insight into this epoch and generation and his fitness to lead in both.

So much for the character—the *ethos*—of the proclamation. The doctrines expounded in it deserve exposition in detail, and in their proper order.

The first place is very justly given to the announcement that treaties and engagements with native princes will be scrupulously maintained. This strikes directly at the interesting point to many powerful potentates, without whose concurrence, or, at

least, toleration, we cannot hope to govern the empire. It has been too evident, unhappily, that our reputation for veracity has suffered of late years in Indian eyes; we have constantly beheld the spectacle of rajahs of various provinces petitioning Parliament for justice; and we could not have begun better than by a solemn profession of our determination to adhere honourably to all that we receive from the Company in the way of outstanding obligations. The second provision follows naturally. We "desire no extension of our present territorial possessions." This is the commencement of a *régime* of peace; and calculated to give confidence to those who feared that our ambition was boundless. When it is next added, that we assume our duties to be the same as those owing to all other subjects of the Crown, the right moral position is taken up. India is incorporated into our moral system by this declaration, which contains in it the germ of a degree of freedom for the Indians such as has not yet been acquired by some nations of Europe.

The "religious" paragraph has been carefully scanned far and wide ere this. It is a most emphatic statement of what we believe to be true doctrine, that, as a government, our Government has no call to convert India; that conversion, in short, is not a political duty in this age of the world; and that the era of persecution has passed away. We believe, indeed, that this is peculiarly the true Christian view. Christianity is a moral force, acting through individuals; it was the beautiful spectacle of single pious men fearlessly preaching it as a truth greater than the sword, which first converted our own pagan ancestors; while the forced conversions of Charlemagne were the real causes of the ferocity with which for a time the Scandinavian rovers harassed the Church. It is, indeed, certain that the policy of the proclamation will not satisfy bigots, but the question we always put to these is, if we lose India, where will be its prospects of Christianisation then? On the other hand, while we do hold it, Christianity has at least the field for its divine influence open to it, borrowing nothing from the magistrate, practising no cruelty, inflicting no wrong, but making its own way by the momentum of its own spiritual truth. This is surely a more generous and noble position for a faith than one in which, backed by authority and pushed forward by force, it should produce (what would inevitably result) hypocrisy and still more dangerous mischiefs. There is all the more merit in this part of the proclamation, because for a time the public seemed in-

clined to favour a far more violent view of our religious obligations in India.

The announcement that natives of the necessary qualifications will be admitted to offices in the public service follows naturally from the previous provisions. It will not be very palatable to the gentlemen who talk of the "nigger," but they are considered at home simply as bad specimens of what Englishmen of an inferior stamp become when unexpectedly placed in positions where they can tyrannise, so we need not care how the proclamation affects them. That "the ancient rights, usages, and customs of India" should be openly declared objects of our future respect is in the highest degree philosophical and just. It is mere Cockneyism and vulgarity to pretend contempt for ancient civilisations, and to apply the Bernondsey model to Asia; and we trust that a knowledge of the languages and history of the peoples of Hindostan will be made still more common among our services than it was in the days of the old school. The danger in these overland-route times, is that under-educated men, prejudiced, as all men of narrow reading are, will become too numerous in our administrative system.

On the question of the mutineers and rebels, the proclamation holds the language of the British public generally. There is a wish, now, to see an end to executions—to hear the last of campaigns; and this is reflected in the desire for peace and order which breathes through the concluding paragraphs of the state paper before us. It would, indeed, be impossible to declare an amnesty which should give security to the absolute murderers of our countrymen. These men have no claims to mercy, and if they should escape, we have been unjust to such criminals as have suffered already. But in promising their lives to all others, and simple amnesty to mere political rebels, we are making an immense concession, and one which ought to have the happiest results on the pending war. By the last accounts, the war was progressing hopefully, but it cannot be doubted, that as the terms offered become known from village to village through thousands of miles, defections will take place from the rebel cause. On the one side, is certain defeat in the field—no prospect of ultimate success—all the anxieties of war without its gratifications; on the other, absolute security of life, property, and position under the British flag.

The conclusion of this memorable paper pledges Britain to a policy which shall stimulate the industry of India, and promote its public works. There cannot be a doubt that we have



CANNONPORT MILITARY POLICE, DRESS AND UNIFORMS.

NEW INDIAN UNIFORMS.

INFANTRY, CORPORAL AND PRIVATE.

hitherto neglected this great branch of our duty as rulers; neglected it perhaps more completely than any nation in a similar position before. Our security for the future depends on another course of proceeding: on confining our ambition within our present geographical limits; giving fair play to every native claim without surrendering the leadership, for which we are qualified by our race; and making it our business to improve the inheritance which we have undertaken to administer for the benefit of India and of ourselves.

NEW UNIFORMS FOR BRITISH TROOPS IN INDIA.

Our brave troops in India have at length been furnished with a dress suitable for the climate. We shall no longer hear of our men dropping on the march, from the effects of a tightly-buttoned coat, or a shako made expressly to receive the deadly rays of an Indian sun.

The present new dress is so simple that a few words of description will suffice. The helmet is composed of drab felt, with a ventilator on the top. The tunic, or frock, is a loose garment, made so as to leave the neck perfectly free, with one large pocket on the breast. The number of the regiment is marked in white numerals on the shoulder-straps. The sergeants, corporals, &c., are distinguished as heretofore by white bands on the arm. The trousers are what are known as the Zouaves' or Cossack style, simply loose trousers, with pockets à la Française at the sides. The dress is made of a light material, called janne, of a drab colour. Altogether, though not very picturesque or gaudy in colour, it is a dress which appears in every way suitable for the uses intended. Messrs. Isaac Campbell and Co. have the order to furnish the dresses to all the Indian troops, and have already supplied dresses for the following regiments:—33rd, 61st, 91st, 70th, 7th, 24th, 23rd, 29th, 43rd, 51st, and 28th. All troops intended for India have this dress supplied to them upon their arrival on board ship.

With this dress, it is to be hoped that our troops will not suffer so much on the march as they have heretofore.

CAWNPUR MILITARY POLICE.

This is a new uniform for the Cawnpur Military Police, of which Captain Mowbray Thomson is appointed commander. This officer is one of two who so miraculously escaped from the Cawnpur massacre. The dress is very different in appearance to the one above described. It is beautifully clean in the contrast. The frock is a copy from the native dress usually worn by irregular cavalry. It is composed of fine drab cloth, with silver facings, intermixed with scarlet lines; there is a cross-belt with pouch, with ornaments similar to those worn by our rifle regiments. What with silver cords and buttons, tassels, &c., not forgetting a very handsome sabre-tash, with the Imperial Crown and the initials C. M. P. in the centre, a Sikh turban and jack boots, the costume is one of the most becoming uniforms we have seen.

The undress is also of drab cloth; the jacket ornamented with silver edging and small silver buttons. There are two rows of broad silver on the trousers; the forage cap is also ornamented with silver. Mr. Besch, of Hanover, has the furnishing of this regiment. If our subscribers could see the dress on some of our Indian heroes, they would not think much of our vaunted Lie Guard costume.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

The French journals were engaged in a lively discussion on the relations of Sardinia and Austria, when they were admonished by the "Moniteur" to cease on that subject also. The Government journal says, "A discussion, sustained with regrettable persistence by various journals at Paris, seems to have caused an anxiety which the foreign relations of France do not justify to any extent. The Government puts the public on their guard as to a controversy which is of a nature to affect the relations of France with an allied Power."

A strange favour has been granted to Prince Napoleon, as Minister of the Colonies—namely, that he is to have the right to appoint the judges in the colonies. This right has hitherto been vested in the Minister of Justice. The change is another indication that this new Ministry for Algeria and the colonies is meant to be something materially different from the Home Ministry.

SPAIN.

In opening the Cortes a few days since, the Queen made a speech, of which the most important points were, that she hoped the difficulties with Mexico might be shortly solved, though energetic measures have been decided upon in the event of a contrary result. Morocco had made reparation for the vessel which had been plundered—a circumstance which the Government hoped would prevent the renewal of depredations by the Riff pirates in future. The expedition to Cochinchina had been undertaken in concert with France. The internal condition of Spain was satisfactory, and measures would be introduced affecting the municipalities, the provincial deputations, the press, and redemption of quit-rents. Her Majesty concluded with promising to accelerate the formation of public roads.

AUSTRIA.

The Austrian Government is said to have lately sent to all public functionaries a declaration to which their signature is to be attached, and which will thereby have all the weight of an oath. The person signing will therein affirm that they do not form part, either at home or abroad, of any secret or illegal society; and that if they have found themselves compromised in such associations they have withdrawn from them with the firm intention of never joining them for the future. This rumour is probably unfounded.

The Viennese journals betray considerable soreness at the language of the French press recently, with reference to the affairs of Italy; but their tone is generally moderate.

ITALY.

The King of Sardinia recently reviewed his troops; when the evolutions were completed, the King turned to General Roland, and made a remark which has added considerably to the apprehension of an European outbreak. What his Majesty did say is variously set down. As first reported, he said: "Gentlemen, let us be prepared, for it may happen that next spring we shall have again to smell gunpowder." A more pacific and more probable version, but scarcely less significant, is as follows:—"The bearing of these troops pleases me exceedingly—it is truly warlike. This is a great satisfaction to me, for if in the spring, or at any other time, we had to take the field, I may rely on the excellent feeling of the army." This little speech is much talked of in reference to Austria; which, to put the rumour plainly, France and Sardinia propose to eject from Italy at a speedy day. The "Continental Review" pretends to give the whole programme, including the allotment of the conquered territory: "Piedmont will receive the Duchies of Modena, Parma, and Placentia, besides some portions of Lombardy. The ancient kingdom of Italy in Lombardy and Venice will be re-established in the person of Prince Napoleon, and the real object in placing that Prince at the head of the department of Algeria and the colonies, is to give him habits of business, and to prepare him for the affairs of government. The Romagna will be separated from the States of the Church, and united to the kingdom of Italy under Prince Napoleon. The intention is that the dynasty of Murat should be re-established at Naples." Whether in view of such chances or not, it is certain that both Austria and Sardinia are very busily engaged on their fortifications; and as for France, we are told that "at the arsenals, Metz, Strasburg, Grenoble, Montpellier, and Toulouse, the men are kept at work night and day." The army of Sardinia, on a war footing, is stated at 112,000 infantry, 19,000 cavalry, and 40 batteries. Then Russia appears to be very well disposed toward Sardinia just now. The Grand Duke Constantine and his consort arrived at Turin on the 3rd, on a visit to the King.

Letters received from Naples assert "that the King has offered to the Western Powers to re-establish diplomatic relations, by sending Ambassadors mutually. England has replied that everything would be subordinate to a satisfactory regulation of amnesty."

TURKEY AND THE EAST.

The work of marking out the boundary-line of the Turco-Russian frontier has been concluded. Stone pyramids were put up for the purpose in all places where there was not a sufficiently marked line. There is no news of importance from Constantinople.

AMERICA.

The Central American question, and the stoppage of Walker's filibustering expedition at Mobile, by the refusal of Government to grant a clearance to the vessel, are the principal topics of conversation in America; but no new phase of the matter has appeared.

A Washington despatch says:—"It is known here that Louis Napoleon has determined to send a minister to Nicaragua, for the purpose of making a treaty and heading off the designs that are attributed to this country in reference to the transit route through Nicaragua."

The great State Arsenal at New York, which was in course of erection, and well-nigh finished, was totally destroyed on the 19th ult. by the collapsing of the roof, which in its fall crushed out three of the walls of the building, and did other serious damage. No loss of life was occasioned.

THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

News from the Cape of Good Hope is to the 22nd of October. Peace had been resumed between Moshesh and the Free State, and mutual concessions were made. The colonial frontier was rather unsettled, and fears of another war were entertained. The Caffre Chief Umbala, and two of his counsellors, had been found guilty, by a special criminal court, of attempting to levy war in South Africa against her Majesty; sentence deferred. No news of Dr. Livingstone's expedition.

M. DE MONTALEMBERT.

The Emperor of the French graciously tendered his pardon to Count de Montalembert, and selected the 2nd of December, of all days in the year, whereon to date this act of Imperial clemency. What must have been his chagrin, to find his illustrious opponent not only refusing the pardon, but convicting the Emperor of a fresh breach of the law? As soon as he read in the "Moniteur" the notification of the Emperor's clemency, M. Montalembert addressed the following letter to the editor:—

"M. le Rédacteur—The 'Moniteur' of this morning contains, in its non-official part, intelligence which reached me only twice while I was reading it. It is in these words: 'The Emperor, on occasion of the anniversary of the 2nd of December, has relieved M. le Comte de Montalembert from the penalties involved in the sentence passed upon him.'"

"Condemned on the 14th of November, I voted, within the time specified by the law, an appeal against the sentence of which I was the object. No power in France has the right to remit a penalty which is not definitive. I am one of those who still believe in right, and will accept no favour. I request, and if need be I require you, in terms of Article 11 of the law of 1822, to insert this letter in your next number."

A letter from M. de Montalembert, of an earlier date (Nov. 29), to the Cardinal Archbishop of Paris, more fully expresses his views:—

"Monseigneur—The number of the 'Indépendance Belge' received this day in Paris announces that your Eminence, after having already taken various steps in my favour, intended to intercede with the Emperor in order to obtain a remission of the penalty which has been pronounced against me."

"I am aware that entire credit should not be bestowed on assertions of this nature, but the immense publicity of the Journal that contains them, and the emotion produced among my friends, impose on me the duty of pointing out this language to your Eminence, and of protesting, if need be, against the intentions it supposes."

"Proud and honoured by a condemnation which proves my fidelity to the political opinions of my whole life, and which comes so opportunely to justify in the eyes of Europe and of posterity all that I have said or thought on the actual condition of France, I have at this moment no other desire than to leave to my judges the responsibility of their acts, and I could only regard in the light of a real wrong (injure) the slightest favour emanating from the Imperial Government."

"In the midst of the chances of which I have been the witness, and of the trials of which I have been the victim, my honour has remained intact. It is to preserve it from all attack, even in appearance, that I take the liberty of expressing to your Eminence a disquietude, perhaps superfluous, but perfectly legitimate."

"I have the honour to be, Monseigneur, your Eminence's very humble and obedient servant,"

The Cardinal Archbishop, it is said, replied to the foregoing in a letter on the 30th of November, to the effect that he never had the intention attributed to him by the "Indépendance Belge."

A Cabinet Council discussed the question of M. de Montalembert's appeal, and decided that it should be allowed; but we hear the answer to it will simply be the Emperor's pardon, which it will be pleaded, covers everything—the penalty imposed by the police-court, as also the possible effects of the new penal law, popularly known as the *Loi des Suspects*.

MR. GLADSTONE AT CORFU.

MR. GLADSTONE has arrived at Corfu, and on the 26th ult. the Queen's warrant, appointing him Lord High Commissioner Extraordinary to the Ionian Islands, was read to a full meeting of the Senate. On that occasion he delivered a speech in Italian, in which he explained his mission:—

"Aware that embarrassments have heretofore from time to time beset the action of the institutions established under the treaty, her Majesty designs to seek information, through an organ independent of past Ionian politics, as to the causes of those embarrassments and the best means of removing them."

"On the one side the British Protectorate over these Islands, on the other the substantive existence of the Ionian State and its title to Constitutional Government, having their respective roots in the treaty of Paris, are derived from a source higher than the will of any single State, whether Sovereign or subordinate. They form a portion of the public law of Europe. They cannot be infringed or altered by any authority inferior to that from which they flow. It is therefore to be readily understood, alike from the terms of the Commission, and from the reason of the case, that my mission avoids every ulterior question that could derogate from the relations in which, by the consent of so many great States, England and the Islands have been reciprocally placed. The liberties guaranteed by the Treaty of Paris and by Ionian laws are, in the eyes of her Majesty, sacred. On the other hand, the purpose for which she has sent me is not to inquire into the British protectorate, but to examine in what way Great Britain may most honourably and amply discharge the obligations which, for purposes European and Ionian rather than British, she has contracted."

The President of the Senate replied, declaring that the Senate regarded Mr. Gladstone's mission "in the obvious and dignified sense in which your Excellency is pleased to explain it." His Excellency seems to have been received with great cordiality, and to have made rather a sensation.

THE PRECESSION OF THE EQUINOXES.—M. Poincaré, a distinguished member of the Institute, and celebrated for the discovery of the theory of couples in mechanics, has recently solved an important problem, which has baffled the ingenuity of mathematicians since the time of Newton. It is well known that the intersections of the terrestrial equator with the ecliptic, called the equinoxes, never occur twice at the same point, but that every year they appear to recede by about 50-18 seconds. This retrograde motion is called the "precession of the equinoxes." To explain this motion by the theory of universal gravitation became an important problem at the time when Newton made that great discovery. He himself attempted an explanation of it, but the imperfect state of astronomy at that period deprived him of the advantage of certain data which were indispensable to arrive at the desired solution. After many other unsuccessful attempts have been made to solve the question, M. Poincaré proves by mathematical calculations that, by the law of gravitation, the earth's axis must describe an oscillation of 1400 seconds in virtue of the attraction of the sun, and 169 seconds in virtue of that of the moon, or about 18 seconds in all, in the course of nine years and three months, after which a similar oscillation takes place in the contrary direction. This quantity of 18 seconds all but exactly coincides with the results of observation; and his determination of the precession is equally exact, since he finds it to be 50.4 seconds.

MR. DRUMMOND'S OPINION OF THE EMPEROR.

MR. H. DRUMMOND, M.P., has just published, in the form of a shilling pamphlet, "A Letter to Mr. Bright on his Plan for turning the English Monarchy into a Democracy." The burden of the pamphlet is the prediction of a French invasion. Mr. Drummond quotes from a leading French paper these words, in reference to the effect produced on the French by a speech by Mr. Roebuck:—"It required but the hoisting of a flag upon a mast to have converted that roadside (Cherbourg) into a sea of blood;" whereupon Mr. Drummond remarks:—

"Now, hoisting a flag does nothing; it takes I suppose, a prepared mind to see something previously agreed to be done on seeing that signal. Then the flag does perform an important part in the play. Such is the fact; wonder is that they should have let it out. A considerable number, of artillerymen and sailors there, did want to shoot their guns; they were restrained; but it was only under the promise conveyed through the same and navy chaplains, that 'à moins de deux ans ils seront vengés de l'Angleterre!'"

After citing authorities, with the view of proving the soundness of the construction which he puts upon the intentions of our Allies, he says:—

"Just after the Emperor mounted the throne he said to an eminent diplomatist, 'I have three missions to fulfil: to re-establish the Napoleonian dynasty, revise the treaty of 1815, and revenge Waterloo.' 'At these last words,' said the reporter of this anecdote, 'his voice altered and trembled with emotion, and his dull eyes sparkled like those of a besotted man.' He often declared to others that he had three things to accomplish: 1st, He established the empire; 2nd, Put down the press; 3rd, Revenge Waterloo. He has done the two first, which, when he said this, were more unlikely to be fulfilled, and certainly more difficult, than the last. The Emperor is not a man to do things without preparation; besides which he will give us no warning. He knows that his whole prospects, life, and fame depend on the one stroke. He will send from Toulon and Algiers, at one and the same moment, fleets and armies against Malta and Gibraltar. He will send a fleet, with troops on board, to Ireland, where he will be joined by rebel Papists, determined to join with anything which should destroy Protestantism, as their authorised journals in France and Belgium have declared. He will send a fleet to fight your fleet in the Channel; whilst gun-boats from Cherbourg, Brest, and Boulogne, land troops in the Thames, the Mersey, or the southern coast, and probably at Glasgow. After he is here he will perhaps proclaim war. He will risk 300,000 men; he will land 100,000, and destroy here at least three times that number of men, women, and children, besides burning an immense amount of property in buildings; and 10,000 foreign patriots now in London will set it on fire in twenty places, to the sick of plunder, and the shopkeepers will run away."

This is what Mr. Drummond would see done:—

"We have 93,000 bayonets in India; they should be brought home as soon as possible. I fear the people must look to themselves, and not trust to the Horse Guards, to defend us from foreign attack. The country is thereby enclosed, and raw soldiers can do much behind hedges and buildings where they could not do in the open field. An invading army could bring neither cavalry nor artillery. Our roads are narrow, and the columns of invaders must be long; more men perish in war from want of rest than from battle, and the invaders should never be allowed to sleep for a single instant. Every one who can afford to buy a rifle and a revolver should procure them forthwith, and they should instantly form themselves into rifle clubs; the people who cannot, must use pitchforks, scythes, or billhooks on poles, flax, or whatever else they can get. Every village or town where the invaders had to rest should be set on fire, and their links and rear should be hung upon a quarter given. The lords-lieutenant of counties, with the aid of the magistrates, should have lists of every cart, wagon, horse, and all other means of conveyance for troops, guides through back lanes, and over unenclosed downs and heaths, to conduct the armed masses on the flanks of the invaders, as ready for the use of the Government at a moment's notice. These measures would cost very little; but the moral effect of such a demonstration on the part of the whole population would be immense on the ardour of those who are planning our conquest. On the first symptom of a hostile sail appearing, partial-law should be proclaimed, and every male thing brought out to fight."

HEAD TO THE RESCUE!—Sir Francis Head has written from Croydon to the "Times" in defence of Louis Napoleon. What he tries to prove is, that "the Emperor Louis Napoleon is not the despot—that the French people are not the slaves—and that Count de Montalembert is not the martyr." He has been said to be by the "Times" and others. His mode of proof is to show that the French people hated the Republic; that they approved its fall; that they elected Louis Napoleon President for ten years "as a mark of substantial approbation;" and that, in 1852, in further acknowledgment to Louis Napoleon of their gratitude for having dissolved that Republic, they deliberately created him their Emperor. In reply, he held the boldness to tell his army and his people that the principle of the Empire would be "Peace." Louis Napoleon has been a "faithful ally," &c. The French people love despotism, and so on:—"And if so, is it not unbefitting the dignity of Great Britain, whose institutions are admired by the French Emperor and by the French people, that its press should embarrass France by printing and publishing every angry document that can increase its advancement to the freedom we enjoy; meddle with internal affairs which do not concern us; and, lastly, offer insulting language to a faithful ally, and to a brave, intelligent, and excitable people, possessing an arm of 400,000 men, who, at a moment's notice, would be ready and eager to invade any nation which, in a moment of profound peace, unjustifiably attacked the honour of their country?"

ACTION AGAINST MR. MARIO.—M. Calzadò brought an action, on Saturday week, before the tribunal of commerce, Paris, against M. Mario, the actor, to make him perform the part of the Duke of Mantua in the opera of "Rigoletto" on Sunday evening last, and on any other evening required, or, in default, to pay 12,000 francs damages for each night of refusal. It was stated by his advocate that Mario, who for a long time had been first actor at the Italian Theatre, at a salary of 14,000 francs a month, had created the part in question, and had obtained great success in it. Subsequently the part was played by Carion, Graziani, and Bellard; and Mario, when asked to resume it, had done so readily. M. Calzadò had announced "Rigoletto" for Sunday evening, with Mario as the Duke of Mantua, Frezzolini (prima donna) as Gilda; and nearly all the house had been let; but, on the 1st of this month, M. Mario notified that he would not appear in the part, when asked the reason, declared that the manager had no right to compel him to do so without his consent, inasmuch as their agreement stipulated that "they should come to an understanding with each other" as to the parts to be played. He was remonstrated with, but persisted in refusing, and the manager was obliged to bring his action. M. Calzadò said his motive had never intended to allow M. Mario the power of refusing any part or old operas which he had always sung, but simply intended to permit himself to object to such new parts in new operas as he might not think suitable to his own taste. On the part of M. Mario, it was stated that throughout his long career he had made a rule of avoiding discussions with managers, and of displaying zeal in the discharge of his duties; and he begged the Court to believe that he had not raised the present difficulty from caprice or vanity. The language of the agreement clearly prevented the manager from imposing on him a part which he might not want to play. He did not mean that the manager was to ask him every day if he would sing in such or such a character, but merely to come to an understanding with him at the beginning of the season as to the parts in which he was to be required to appear. That the season was necessary, inasmuch as his voice and strength were not the same as they had been twenty years ago; and parts which he played then were no longer suitable to his personal appearance. On that account he had refused to sing in the "Puritani." There was another consideration—Graziani had at the beginning of the season been designated for the part of the Duke of Mantua—and Mario would not be acting like a good colleague to deprive him of it. Moreover, the nature of Madame Frezzolini's voice was such that, in order to sing with her, he would be obliged to raise his voice to a tone, which he did not want to do. The tribunal decided that the terms of the agreement between Mario and Calzadò could not be so interpreted as to give the actor the power of refusing to sing his regular parts in old operas, and that consequently he must appear in the Duke of Mantua on Sunday, and on any other days the directors might require, under pain of paying 6,000 francs for each refusal. It condemned him likewise to pay all the costs.

AGRICULTURAL PROGRESS IN FRANCE AND ENGLAND.—The "Revue Agricole" gives the following comparative statement of agricultural progress in France and England:—England, 20,000,000 inhabitants, 16,800,000 head of cattle, 60,000,000 sheep. Manure per hectare (2½ acres), equal to that of 19 sheep. Yield per hectare, 20 hectolitres. To each inhabitant more than half an ox killed at the age of two years, and nearly three sheep. Improvement of the ground by very superior agricultural implements. Machines producing economy and better work in ploughing, harrowing, threshing, &c.—France, 35,000,000 inhabitants, 10,000,000 head of cattle, 22,000,000 sheep. Manure per hectare equal to that of 2 sheep. Yield per hectare, 11 hectolitres. To each inhabitant, not one third part of an ox killed at from eight to nine years old, and not one sheep. Too much labour on the hand of man, who remains a machine, since it is only the machine which ought to work—one man ought to perform the work of ten."

THE CHOLERA has ceased in St. Petersburg. On Sunday a Te Deum was sung in all the churches of that city.

THE INDIAN REVOLT.

THE QUEEN PROCLAIMED.

INDIA has finally passed from the hands of the East India Company, and Queen Victoria governs directly through her Ministers in the East dominions. On the 1st of November this act was finally consummated at Calcutta, Bombay, Madras, and Lahore. With Lord Edmonstone and the Government of Bombay this act was made as solemn as the short time allowed for preparation permitted. The proclamation was read from the platform on the steps of the Town-hall, to a large concourse of people. The troops made the demonstration imposing by their presence, and in the evening the city was brilliantly illuminated, and fireworks were displayed in honour of the occasion. We learn also that the proclamation was made the occasion of a grand official celebration at Madras on the 1st of November, without, however, so many public signs of rejoicing as were visible at Bombay. At the time we go to press, we have no news of the reception of this great political event at Calcutta, Allahabad, Agra, and Lahore, but we know that great preparations were being made at all those places. The following is the text of the proclamation:—

PROCLAMATION BY THE QUEEN IN COUNCIL TO THE PRINCES, CHIEFS, AND PEOPLE OF INDIA.

"Victoria, by the grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and of the Colonies and Dependencies thereof in Europe, Asia, Africa, America, and Australasia, Queen, Defender of the Faith."

"Whereas, for divers weighty reasons, we have resolved, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords spiritual and temporal and Commons in Parliament assembled, to take upon ourselves the government of the territories in India, heretofore administered in trust for us by the Honourable East India Company;

"Now, therefore, we do by these presents notify and declare that, by the advice and consent aforesaid, we have taken upon ourselves the said government, and we hereby call upon all our subjects within the said territories to be faithful and to bear true allegiance to us, our heirs and successors, and to submit themselves to the authority of those whom we may hereafter from time to time see fit to appoint to administer the government of our said territories, in our name and on our behalf."

"And we, reposing especial trust and confidence in the loyalty, ability, and judgment of our right trusty and well-beloved cousin and councillor, Charles John Viscount Canning, do hereby constitute and appoint him, the said Viscount Canning, to be our first Viceroy and Governor-General in and over our said territories, and to administer the government thereof in our name, and generally to act in our name and on our behalf, subject to such orders and regulations as he shall from time to time receive from us through one of our principal Secretaries of State."

"And we do hereby confirm in their several offices, civil and military, all persons now employed in the service of the Honourable East India Company, subject to our future pleasure, and to such laws and regulations as may hereafter be enacted."

"We hereby announce to the native princes of India that all treaties and engagements made with them, by or under the authority of the Honourable East India Company, are by us accepted, and will be scrupulously maintained; and we look for the like observance on their part."

"We desire no extension of our present territorial possessions; and while we will permit no aggression upon our dominions, or our rights, to be attempted with impunity, we shall sanction no encroachment on those of others. We shall respect the rights, dignity, and honour of native princes as our own, and we desire that they, as well as our own subjects, should enjoy that prosperity and that social advancement which can only be secured by internal peace and good government."

"We hold ourselves bound to the natives of our Indian territories by the same obligations of duty which bind us to all our other subjects; and those obligations, by the blessing of Almighty God, we shall faithfully and conscientiously fulfil."

"Firmly relying ourselves on the truth of Christianity, and acknowledging with gratitude the solace of religion, we disclaim alike the right and the desire to impose our convictions on any of our subjects. We declare it to be our Royal will and pleasure that none be in anywise favoured, none molested or disquieted, by reason of their religious faith or observances, but that all shall alike enjoy the equal and impartial protection of the law; and we do strictly charge and enjoin all those who may be in authority under us that they abstain from all interference with the religious belief or worship of any of our subjects, on pain of our highest displeasure."

"And it is our further will that, so far as may be, our subjects, of whatever race or creed, be freely and impartially admitted to offices in our service, the duties of which they may be qualified, by their education, ability, and integrity, duly to discharge."

"We know and respect the feelings of attachment with which the natives of India regard the lands inherited by them from their ancestors, and we desire to protect them in all rights connected therewith, subject to the equitable demands of the State; and we will that, generally, in framing and administering the law, due regard be paid to the ancient rights, usages, and customs of India."

"We deeply lament the evils and misery which have been brought upon India by the acts of ambitious men, who have deceived their countrymen by false reports, and led them into open rebellion. Our power has been shown by the suppression of that rebellion in the field; we desire to show our mercy by pardoning the offences of those who have been thus misled, but who desire to return to the path of duty."

"Already in one province, with a view to stop the further effusion of blood, and to hasten the pacification of our Indian dominions, our Viceroy and Governor-General has held out the expectation of pardon, on certain terms, to the great majority of those who in the late unhappy disturbances have been guilty of offences against our Government, and has declared the punishment which will be inflicted on those whose crimes place them beyond the reach of forgiveness. We approve and confirm the said act of our Viceroy and Governor-General, and do further announce and proclaim as follows:—

"Our clemency will be extended to all offenders, save and except those who have been or shall be convicted of having directly taken part in the murder of British subjects."

"With regard to such the demands of justice forbid the exercise of mercy."

"To those who have willingly given asylum to murderers, knowing them to be such, or who may have acted as leaders or instigators in revolt, their lives alone can be guaranteed; but, in appointing the penalty due to such persons, full consideration will be given to the circumstances under which they have been induced to throw off their allegiance, and large indulgence will be shown to those whose crimes may appear to have originated in a too credulous acceptance of the false reports circulated by designing men."

"To all others in arms against the Government we hereby promise unconditional pardon, amnesty, and oblivion of all offences against ourselves, our crown, and dignity, on their return to their homes and peaceful pursuits."

"It is our Royal pleasure that these terms of grace and amnesty should be extended to all those who comply with their conditions before the first day of January next."

"When, by the blessing of Providence, internal tranquillity shall be restored, it is our earnest desire to stimulate the peaceful industry of India, to promote works of public utility and improvement, and to administer its government for the benefit of all our subjects resident therein. In their prosperity will be our strength, in their contentment our security, and in their gratitude our best reward. And may the God of all power grant unto us, and to those in authority under us, strength to carry out these wishes for the good of our people."

The above proclamation of the Queen was accompanied by a proclamation from the Governor-General, which reads as follows:—

"Her Majesty the Queen having declared that it is her gracious pleasure to take upon herself the government of the British territories in India, the Viceroy and Governor-General hereby notifies that from this day all acts of the Government of India will be done in the name of the Queen alone."

"From this day all men of every race and class who, under the administration of the Honourable East India Company, have joined to uphold the honour and power of England, will be the servants of the Queen alone."

"The Governor-General summons them, one and all, each in his degree, and according to his opportunity, and with his whole heart and strength, to aid in fulfilling the gracious will and pleasure of the Queen as set forth in her Royal proclamation."

From the many millions of her Majesty's native subjects in India, the Governor-General will now, and at all times, exact a loyal obedience to the will which in words full of benevolence and mercy, their Sovereign has made upon their allegiance and faithfulness."

The proclamation appears to have been received with great satisfaction by the natives. At Bombay two wealthy Hindoos liberated all the debtors incarcerated in Bombay jail, on the day the proclamation was read, by paying their debts, 4,000 rupees (£100). An address, signed by 5,000 natives, and sent from the same presidency to the Queen, expresses a "cordial hope that the important change of administration which has been thus inaugurated, may have the effect of placing your Majesty's rule in India on a basis still more secure than that upon which it has rested for so many years."

THE REVOLTED DISTRICTS.

The rebellion in Central India is dying out, in the absence or the flight of some of the combatants. Tantia Topce has disappeared from the late scene of his operations, but has done so in a manner which cannot be called eminently satisfactory. General Michel, after beating him at Sindwar, misled by false information, pursued him in a direction which he had not taken, and had to retrace his steps on ascertaining that the slippery chief had run down south to Korai. General Michel, however, made up for the lost time, caught Tantia Topce at Korai, beat him with heavy loss, and cut his army in two. Unhappily the pursuit was directed on that division which had fled north to Khimlassa, Tantia Topce, with the main body, escaping south to Bagrode, from whence, being turned by the advance of Parke's Rajpootana Brigade from Philsa, he made off to the Nerbudda, which he is said to have crossed. Kerr's Mahratta horse, which was at Hosangabad on the 27th of October, was in close pursuit. Our troops were moving on Ellichpore, Jaulnah, and Ahmednagar.

The campaign in Oude began on the 18th, the various columns moving on all sides. Combats have already occurred, in which the rebels are worsted. The Pertabpore, Sultanpore, Sundela, and Shahjehanpore forces seem to be in full activity. Beni Madho had assailed one of the columns, but had been defeated.

The following is Lord Clyde's proclamation on taking the field:—

"The Commander-in-Chief proclaims to the people of Oude that, under the orders of the Right Hon. the Governor-General, he comes to enforce the law. To enable him to effect this without damage to life and property, resistance must cease on the part of the people. The most exact discipline will be preserved in the camps and on the march; and when there is no resistance, houses and crops will be spared, and no plundering allowed in the towns and villages. But wherever there is resistance, or even a single shot fired against the troops, the inhabitants must expect to incur the fate they have brought upon themselves. Their houses will be burnt and their villages plundered. This proclamation includes all ranks of the people, from the talukdars to the poorest ryots. The Commander-in-Chief invites all the well-disposed to remain in their towns and villages, where they will be sure of his protection against all violence."

Five thousand rebels, with four guns, attacked Chubrowlee (?) a British station in Oude, on the 23rd of October. The rebels were repulsed, and pursued for six miles by our cavalry. They lost about 150 killed, and all their guns, while none were killed on our side.

In Behar the rebels, much pressed by Colonel Turner and Sir Henry Havelock, were still numerous enough to give alarm at some of the stations on the Grand Trunk Road.

We have to record coming political changes at Calcutta. Mr. Halliday, Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, retires next May, and will be succeeded by Mr. Grant; Mr. Montgomery will thus become member of Council; Mr. Edmonstone will be Lieutenant-Governor of the North-west Provinces, and Colonel Edwardes will succeed Sir John Lawrence in the government of the Punjab. The native magistrate of Calcutta, Baboo Kishore Chund Mittra, has been dismissed from office by the Government.

An explosion occurred at Kurrachee. The arsenal was blown down, the ball cartridge ammunition was destroyed, and several valuable lives lost.

Mr. Russell, of the "Times," says, that a half-caste Christian, named Fitchett, has thrown a new light on the Cawnpore massacre. He says that the sowars, who were ordered to fire upon the women and children (205 in number) betrayed some unwillingness to do so, "wishing to save themselves the defilement of blood." So two butchers were sent for, and armed with hatchets and swords, they entered the house, while all egress was watched by the sowars. "Fitchett, who was near the place, declares that the assassins entered the enclosure about 5.30 p.m., and that it was 10 p.m. before they came out to announce that their work was accomplished. Once, he says, a butcher appeared with his sword broken in two, received a sabre from one of the sowars, and returned to continue his labour. The Nena was in the hotel close at hand, and when he heard that all were dead, he gave orders that the doors should be closed for the night, and guards put over the place. That night the Nena gave a nautch—a kind of dance and ball—to his friends." Fitchett adds that Miss Wheeler was saved; he saw her at Futteyghur, in company of a sowar, who made off with her when the British approached the town. It is thought that he went to Calpee. "In that case, it is not at all improbable that the unfortunate young lady may be still alive, moving about with Tantia Topce, and that we may rescue her from her unhappy fate."

MAJOR-GENERAL SIR J. INGLIS, of Lucknow celebrity, took his departure on Saturday, from Southampton for India, amid great demonstrations of respect.

Too BAD.—A correspondent of the "Times" writes:—"The 59th Regiment left its native shores in the middle of 1849, for Hong-Kong, and the following list shows how fearfully climate and the baneful effects of keeping a body of men confined in one small island for so lengthened a period has told. Lost by death, officers, 10; non-commissioned officers and men, 498; women, 35; children, 106; invalids sent home, 530; desertion, 145; total, 1,324. Six men remain of the number which left England in 1849! It will be gratifying to the relations of those who have survived, to learn that the unfortunate corps is a fourth time under orders, and not for home (even if it should be now relieved), but to a colony where there is little chance of its being relieved for years, and still less of seeing service, which, in these stirring times, is all a soldier's life for. I may add, that out of the last seventy years this corps has been sixty years abroad."

THE BOMBAY TROOP SHIP.—The troopship Bombay, whose loss was regarded as all but certain, arrived in Plymouth Sound on Sunday morning, in tow of her Majesty's steamer Argus, one of the vessels sent out to search for her. The Bombay is a complete wreck, so far as her masts, rigging, top gear, and deck fittings are concerned; and what is worse, these disasters have been attended with the loss of thirteen lives, twelve men having been drowned (eleven seamen and the first mate), and one accidentally killed by the fall of a portion of the rigging. The fore and mainmast broke a little below the deck, on the 16th of November, when the mate and sixteen others, the best of the crew, were aloft, furling sails; the men were all carried over the side, and six only regained the ship. She had altogether 300 soldiers on board. The sufferings and privations they experienced after the wreck on the 16th ult. must have been great, but their conduct was most creditable, and they proved themselves very useful in assisting to work the ship after the calamity. Captain Steel, who was in command of the troops, complains that the rigging was very weak and unsatisfactory; an opinion which seems to have been shared by the seamen themselves, for they refused to go aloft until they were plied with grog and stimulated by the example of the mate. Captain Steel also complains that when the ship was a wreck, the master caused no signal of distress to be hoisted, though they were several times approached by other vessels. At length Captain Steel, in the presence of all the officers, expostulated with him, and said he felt bound, in consideration of the many men on board, to protest against permitting another chance of relief to pass unchallenged. The distress signal was then elevated, and the ship came alongside. The Bombay, although an old ship, appears to be perfectly sound; indeed, had she not been more than ordinarily strong she would, under the circumstances, have most assuredly gone down.

MICHELET ON LOVE.—M. Michelet has published an essay on "Love." Some of his speculative wanderings are innocent and diverting enough, notwithstanding his absurd and almost vulgar canonisation of his countrywomen as the only real women in the world. The German is sweet and lovely—so pure and so infantine as to seem for ever fresh from heaven; the Spaniard's heart is a furnace of passion; the Italian, with her beauty, pride, candour, poetry, and romantic sensitiveness, is irresistible; the English woman is dreamy, chaste, solitary, faithful, firm, and tender—the model of a wife; but if there be a man who seeks a woman with a soul capable of responding to his own with all that the intellect can add to the passions—if he seeks a source of perpetual happiness, gaiety, and delight—if he would listen at once to music and wisdom, let him make his pilgrimage in France!

EXPORTS DURING NOVEMBER.—The Board of Trade returns for the past month (November) show a falling off in the declared value of our exports of £716,992, compared with the corresponding month of last year, and of £38,154 compared with October, 1856. The reduction continues to be felt in almost every branch of production, except cotton and woollen goods, the shipments of the former to the East Indies still presenting an enormous increase. During the ten months of the current year they have amounted to £7,572,469, against £4,586,669 in the same period of 1857, and £1,560,453 in 1856. Those to China during the past month show a decrease, but the total thus far for the year has been £1,137,159, against £1,179,049.

IRELAND.

PROCLAMATION AGAINST RIOTING SOCIETIES.—The Lord-Lieutenant has issued a proclamation warning to the Rapparees of Ireland, offering a reward for information as to persons who administer the illegal oaths, and another reward for the discovery of persons who take the oath. "All societies or bodies of persons associated under the pretended obligation of oaths unlawfully administered are illegal, and all persons belonging to or members of any such society or association, or maintaining correspondence therewith, or with any officer or member thereof as such, are guilty of an unlawful combination and confederacy, and may be punished accordingly. And we hereby announce and declare that it is our firm determination to use all the means in our power for the suppression of such societies and associations, and for the punishment of the persons belonging thereto."

THE TIPPERARY BANK.—JOHN SADLER'S ESTATE.—In the Irish Landed Estates Court, on Monday, Judge Longfield delivered judgment "In re Burnmaster," the substantial question in the matter being whether the official manager, representing the Tipperary Bank, or the London and County Bank, was entitled to the proceeds of the estates of the late John Sadler. The learned Judge entered into an elaborate review of the facts upon which he grounded the judgment. Upon the facts, as they appeared, he had formed a very decided opinion that the right of the parties claiming under the different securities should depend on the circumstances under which the securities had been executed. He could not believe that all the evidence adduced was that of perjured persons, and that the Directors of the London Bank, with a full knowledge of the affairs, had been engaged in a conspiracy to destroy the Tipperary Bank by making large advances to John Sadler. It was too much to call upon the Court to believe that the Directors of the London Bank were cognisant of the frauds of John Sadler. His Lordship decided in favour of the Directors' claim. The decision will seriously affect all parties interested in the Tipperary Bank.

THE PROVINCES.

LADY CLEMENTINA VILLIERS, daughter of the Earl and Countess of Jersey, died, on Sunday, at Middleton Park, Oxon. Her Ladyship was thirty-five years old.

THE ATLANTIC TELEGRAPH.—The Liverpool merchants have extensively signed a petition praying that the Government should give another guarantee to the Atlantic Telegraph Company. The petition states that, looking to the grandeur of the undertaking—to its special and exceptional nature, and its importance to the government of Great Britain and its dependencies, considering the capital and labour hitherto liberally expended by the undertakers without any return or commercial profit, it would not only be justifiable by precedent, but would also be for the benefit of the country, if her Majesty's Government were to extend their aid to the enterprise, in the form of such a moderate guarantee on a fixed amount of new capital, as is understood to have been asked by the Atlantic Telegraph Company, and as will induce the public to subscribe the requisite funds for completing this national and important work.

A MELANCHOLY CASE.—Abraham Ashworth was a woolsorter, of Halifax. He fell ill, and was obliged to leave his work. Now, he had a wife and seven children to provide for; and, being under the impression that he should never recover his health, he fell into a sad frame of mind, and sometimes threatened to kill himself, but afterwards begged his wife to say nothing about it. She obeyed, but watched her husband closely, and put out of his reach anything calculated to aid him in carrying out that determination. A few days ago, she found in bed a razor, which he had borrowed from a neighbour. Afterwards, she lent him his own razor to shave with. This he secreted; and on Sunday morning, before daylight, he wounded his wife desperately in the bowels. She cried out, and a constable entered, just in time to dash the razor from Ashworth's hand, while he was cutting at his throat. The woman's recovery is very doubtful.

DEATH OF A CENTENARIAN.—Mr. John Burton died at East Barkwith, Lincolnshire, on the 2nd instant. He was born on the 25th of June, 1760, and thus lived in the reigns of George II., III., IV., William IV., and Victoria. For seventy-five years he was tenant of the glebe farm under six successive rectors of East Barkwith. He was a man of remarkable strength and industry, being known, even after he was an old man, to work in the fields all day and remain up nearly all night threshing corn for the market. When more than ninety-six years of age he would walk to church and back, a distance of nearly six miles, and less than two years ago he took the plough and ploughed for about two hours. His hair was still black at the time of his decease, and his eyesight was so good that he could read small print, in church always following the service and joining in the responses with great precision. He was married, and leaves three children, born with an interval of ten years between each.

MADNESS OR MISCHIEF?—In February, 1854, a woman named Moore, a hawker in the drapery trade, was found dead in the canal leading from Oldbury to Birmingham. As she had been drinking, and had taken the tow-path home, it was presumed that she had fallen into the canal accidentally, and a coroner's jury gave a verdict accordingly. Last week a man named Baker was drinking in a public-house in the neighbourhood; as he sat by the fire, he was presently heard to mutter in an abstracted way—"Yes; I see it all with my own eyes; they are the murderers!" One of Baker's friends said, "What do you see?" Baker replied, "I see it; I saw the shawl and tried to pull it out, but Ballard came up and wouldn't permit me;" and then added, "and Markwick was on the bridge." On hearing such an extraordinary statement, those who were with him pressed Baker with other questions, and obtained answers to the effect that a few years since he was returning home one night by the tow-path, and saw a shawl and apparently a body in the canal. He got hold of the shawl and drew it gradually to the bank, when it separated from the body. Ballard at that moment came up, and would not permit him to meddle with the body, while Markwick stood watching upon the bridge. This statement was all the more remarkable, because Baker's family noticed that, both while drunk and sober, he has on different occasions during the last twelve months spoken of some murder, and of men whom he charged with being concerned in it; but always followed it up by saying that he would never split, for he intended to be like Palmer. A special meeting of gentlemen in the Commission of the Peace assembled at Oldbury to investigate the story. Baker now said, when the evidence was read over to him—"Well, if I did say that I must be drunk—I said wrong then. But I did see something in the water, and I put my hand and pulled it out, and it was a shawl or a handkerchief. I put it on the side—it was a shawl or a handkerchief. I was going to investigate further, but Ballard would not permit." The magistrates now consulted, and declared that they did not believe a word of Baker's story. He must be insane.

BURGLARY BY CONSENT.—A Nottingham police-constable was taking his way through Great Alfred Street, when he met a man named Butler, and spoke to him. Shortly afterwards, as he was trying the doors, he found the door of a Mr. Frederick Shandlow unfastened. Pushing it open he fell over a bundle tied up, lying on the floor, and going into the kitchen, where a candle was burning, he saw on the table a poker, a carving-knife, and a bottle. Cupboards and drawers were emptied, and the house presented every appearance of having been robbed. He called up Mr. Shandlow, who going to a drawer said the thieves had carried off a £5 bank-note, four sovereigns, and a crown-piece. The bundle which the constable stumbled over in the passage, contained wearing apparel. Shandlow's idea apparently was that the thieves must have been alarmed and dropped it, while the poker and knife showed they had intended to defend themselves if attacked. Inspector Chamberlain, to whom the affair was at once committed, went to Butler's house, who on seeing him said, "I know what you are come after: that house in Great Alfred Street. It's only a got-up thing to deceive people in the house, as Shandlow is in difficulties." Upon this Shandlow was apprehended, and confessed that Butler's statement was true. The money, which he had alleged was stolen, belonged to an old woman who lodged with him, and he had conceived this scheme to get possession of it. He had hidden the money behind a row of hat pegs, where it was found all but one sovereign and the crown piece, which Butler had received for his share in the transaction. The case was brought before the magistrate, and remanded.

THE DIRECTORS OF THE CRYSTAL PALACE report that the affairs of the company have greatly improved; and they think that hereafter they will be able to declare a regular annual dividend on the ordinary shares.

THE COLONIST AT HOME.—It may appear a slight matter, but we are disposed to attach considerable importance to the very uncomfortable position in which a successful colonist from Canada, Australia, or the Cape, finds himself on his return to the mother country. He has fought the battle of life successfully, and comes back to his native country with a disposition to please and to be pleased. The climate, in the first place, is apt to disappoint him. The skies appear grayer, the mornings rawer, the evenings colder, and the sun paler, than he remembers them. His friends have some fallen too low, for him to wish to have anything to say to them, and others have risen too high for them to wish to have anything to say to him. His blooming Mary has married somebody else, and is the happy but not very slender mother of a thriving family. If he goes into the country, he is repelled by the "morgue" of the neighbouring squires; if he takes up his abode in London, he is overlooked in the bustle, and lives as solitary in the crowd as if he were still under the shadow of his own gum trees. After a certain amount of this discipline, he returns to his colony a sadder if not a wiser man. He is still a subject of the Queen, but no longer a fellow-subject in heart, at least, of English Squires and London Amphytrions.—The Times.

JAPANESE SKETCHES.

In a recent impression, we published an engraving of Jeddo; but that city is so vast in its proportions, that to give anything like an adequate idea of its magnitude in one illustration we found impossible. Therefore we resolved to make two separate views of the town, one taken below bridge and the other above. A detailed description of the capital of Japan has already appeared in No. 189 of the "Illustrated Times," to which we must refer our readers. Perhaps a few additional particulars, as to the extent and population of that comparatively hitherto closed country, may not be uninteresting.

The islands constituting the Japanese Archipelago are said to amount to 1,000 in number, but the bulk of the land and population is confined to three, the rest being but rocks and islets. The area of the entire empire is estimated at 170,000 square miles, which makes it above double the size of Britain. The whole lies between the 30th and 48th degrees of latitude, having, therefore, as far as latitude will express it, the climates of Egypt, Italy, France, and Spain, but, from its position so near to Kamtschatka and Siberia, the northern portion of the empire has the climate, not of France, but of Russia. The population of Japan has been usually reckoned at 20,000,000, which makes it nearly the same as our own, and equal to that of an average of the eighteen provinces of China. It is great, however, for a country of which the mountains far exceed the plains and valleys, and its density is attested by the great and acknowledged poverty of the mass of the people, who, to live at all, have to live on

the meanest food, and who, for two whole centuries, have not enjoyed the relief of emigration.

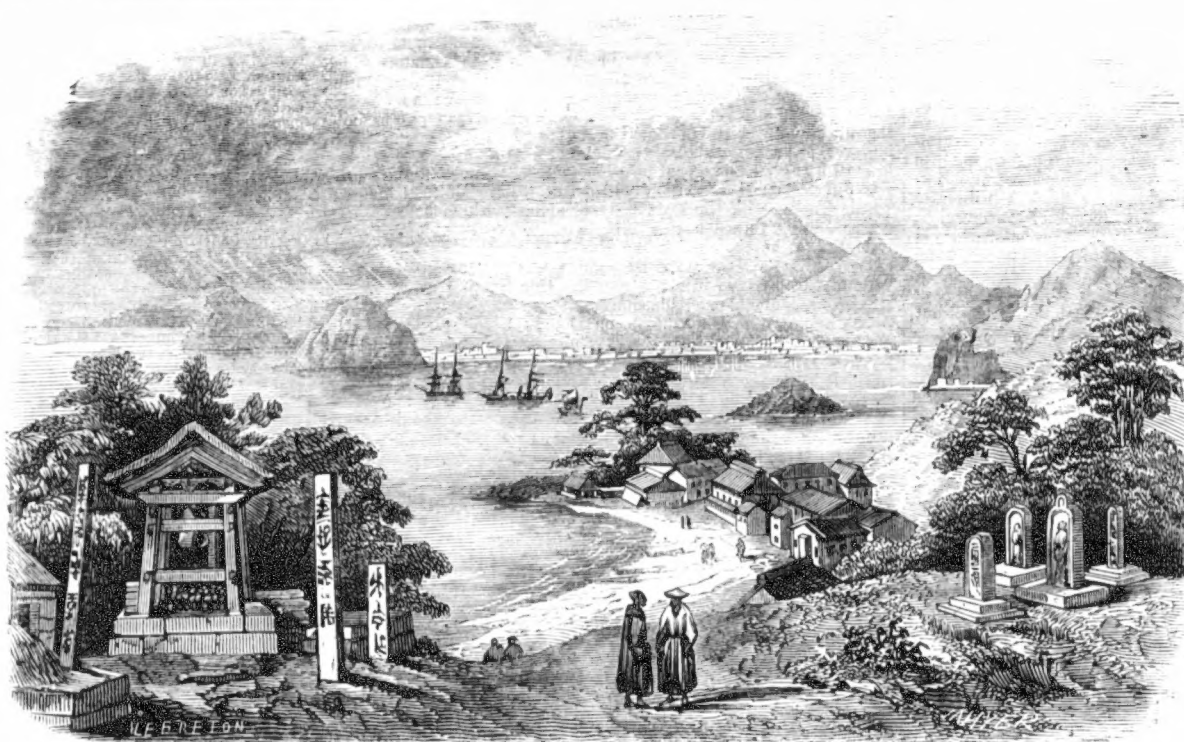
In religious matters, it is plain that the Japanese are not intolerant, for they have three different religions, divided into upwards of thirty sects, the votaries of all which live peaceably together. At the persecution of the Christians in the seventeenth century, a petition was presented

Isthmus of Suez Canal has closed. In France alone 250,000 shares have been subscribed for. As Egypt and Turkey had subscribed for 150,000 shares, the total of 400,000 is already made up. The subscriptions of Austria, Russia, Holland, the United States, Spain, Italy, Belgium, Switzerland, and Germany, for which 40,000 shares were reserved, are not yet known.

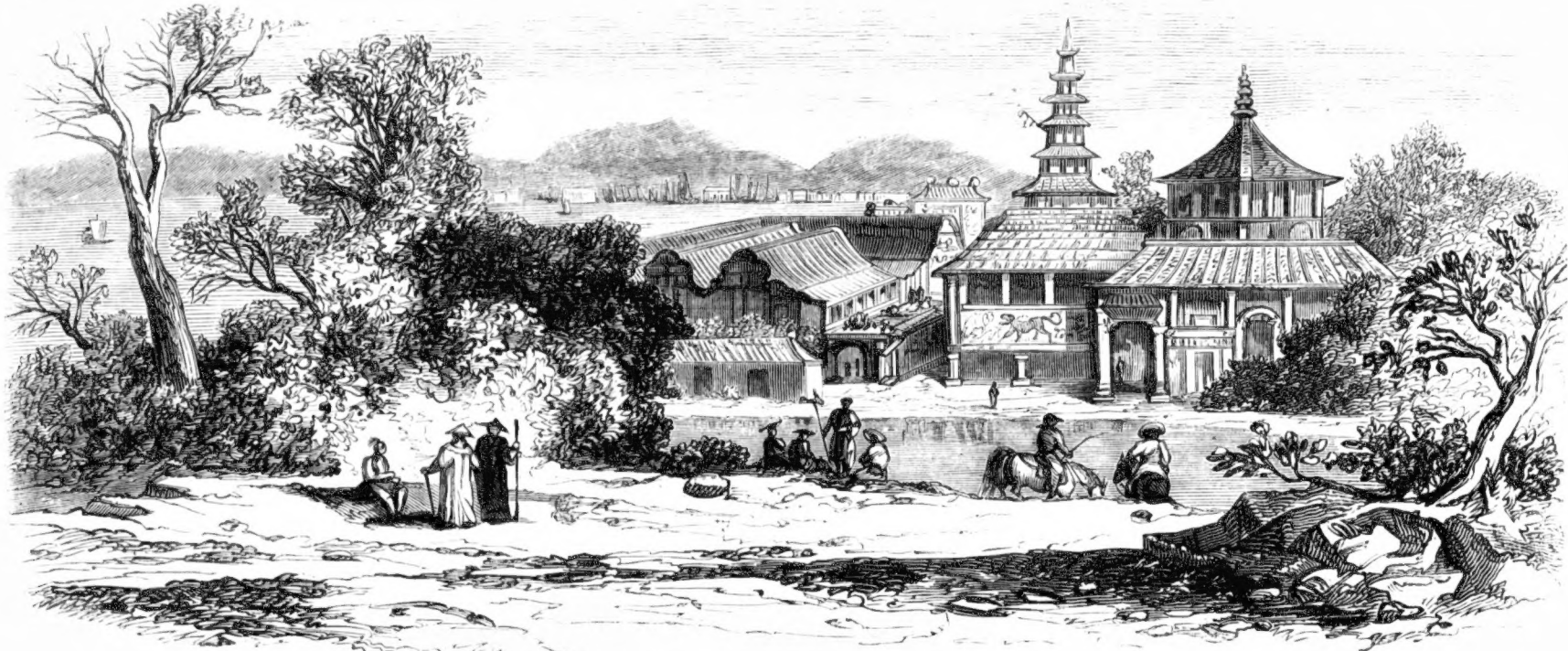
to the Emperor, praying that they might be expelled from the country. His Majesty demanded how many forms of religion existed in the empire, and the reply was thirty-five. "Well," rejoined the head of the State, "where thirty-five can be tolerated, we can easily bear thirty-six. Leave the strangers in peace!"

The subject of another of our illustrations is Simoda, a lovely but dangerous harbour. Its apparently sheltered nooks and secluded coves woo you into their embraces, and when the south wind blows fiercely, you are dashed to atoms upon their ribs of iron. The earthquake which wrecked the Russian frigate *Diana* changed the surface of the bottom, and there is now no good holding ground; but it is a fairy land to look upon, and in calm weather is the picture of repose and security. Here, too, there is a goyoshi, or bazaar, and a better display of lacquer and china than at Nagasaki, but it is a town of no local importance, containing some 3,000 or 4,000 inhabitants, and when under the new treaty the port is shut up, it will sink into its normal condition of a fishing village.

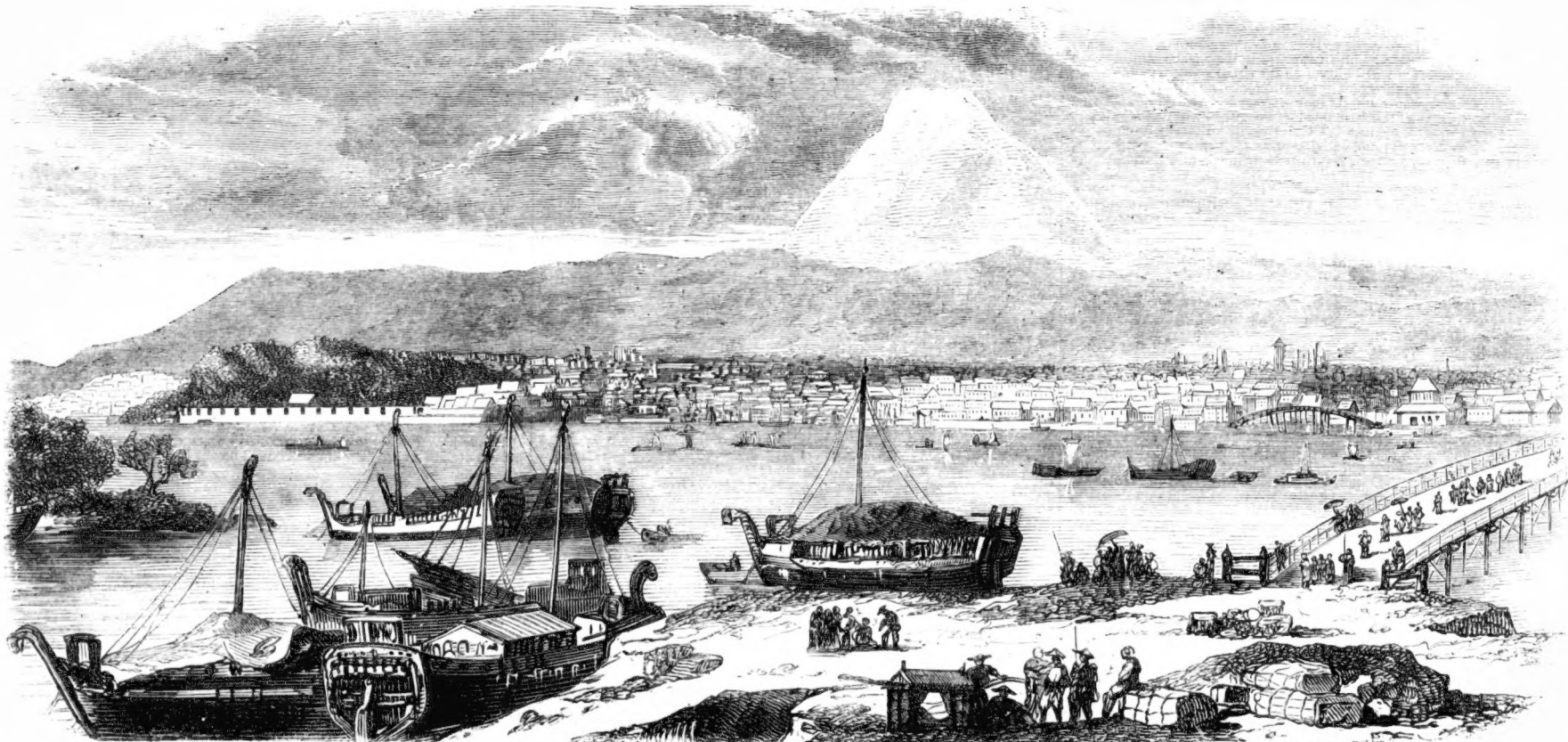
THE ISTHMUS OF SUEZ SCHEME.—The "Moniteur de la Flotte" says:—"The subscription for shares in the Isthmus of Suez Canal has closed. In France alone 250,000 shares have been subscribed for. As Egypt and Turkey had subscribed for 150,000 shares, the total of 400,000 is already made up. The subscriptions of Austria, Russia, Holland, the United States, Spain, Italy, Belgium, Switzerland, and Germany, for which 40,000 shares were reserved, are not yet known."



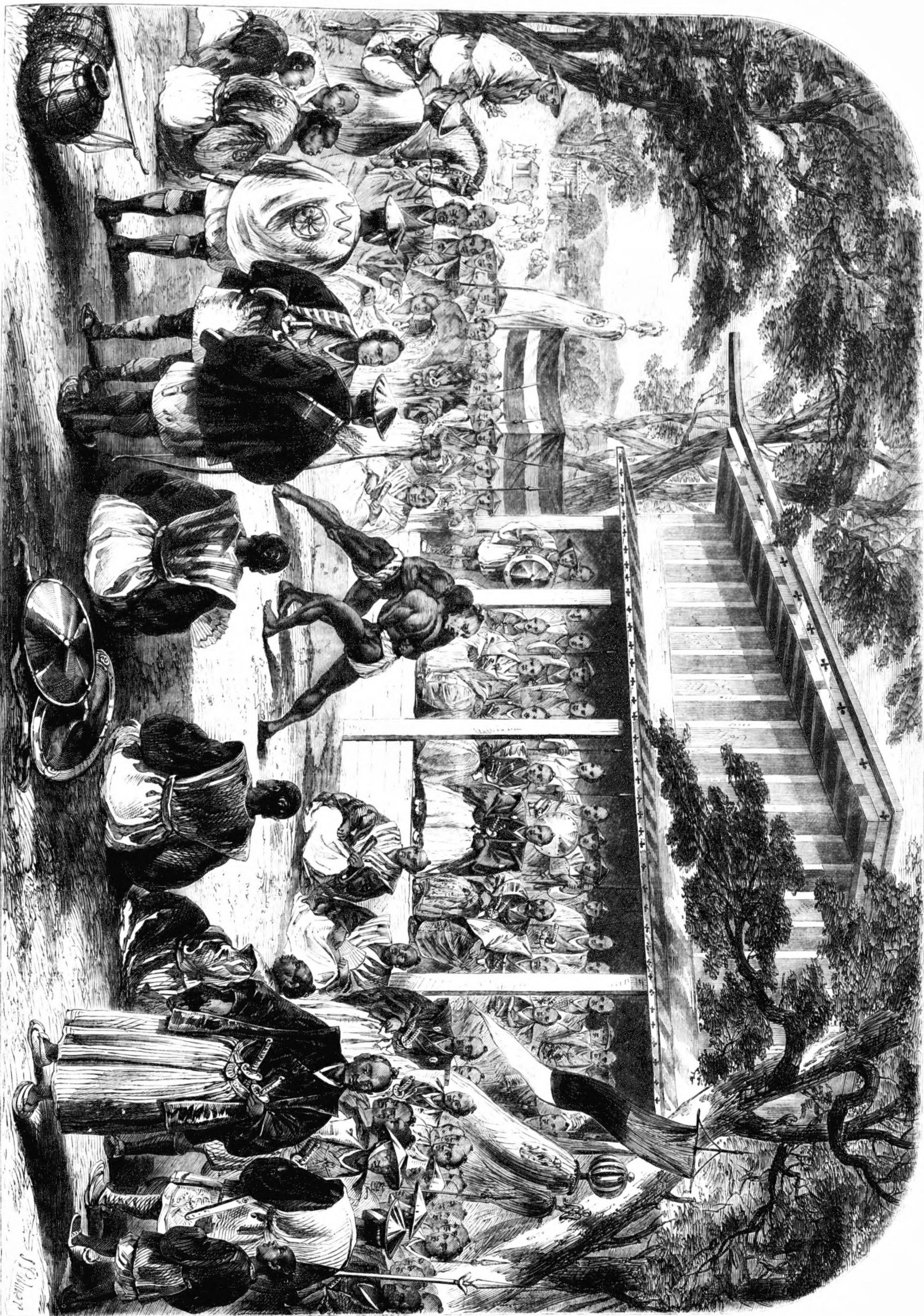
SIMODA, JAPAN.



JUKIN PAGODA IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD OF JEDDO.



JEDDO, ABOVE THE BRIDGE.



JAPANESE GLADIATORS.

JAPANESE GLADIATORS.

With other information as to Japanese manners and customs, we are told that our new friends have an institution something like that of our own prize ring in the days of the late lamented monarch, George the Fourth. In this respect, they are, indeed, at least forty years behind us in civilisation; for, though princes of the blood-royal, and peers of England, no longer distinguish by their presence the fistic arena—which is abandoned to ruffians, and the interference of a hireling constabulary—grandees of the highest rank may be seen encouraging by their august presence the Tipton Slayers of Japan. These heroes—for such, of course, they are regarded—are trained after an approved manner, and are as proud of "coming to the scratch" in tip-top condition, as our own heroes were. They are described by travellers who had the good fortune to witness the exhilarating spectacle which these combats ever present, as gigantic, and of remarkable strength. It is necessary, we believe, to the enjoyment of any description of a "mill," whether of the wrestling or pugilistic character, to write in certain terms agreed upon among the members of the P. R. Now, unfortunately, our ignorance of the Japanese tongue is such that we are unable to give the corresponding terms for "a noer," for "chancery," "bread-basket," "drawing the claret," "fibbing," and the many other expressions without which "Bell's Life" would lose its charm and a "mill" its savour. It is true we might use our own terms; but these, we are afraid, would be no more intelligible to our readers than the original Japanese. Therefore we will dismiss the subject by reference to our illustration, wherein a "stunning combat" may be viewed without fear of the hireling constabulary aforesaid.

SMITHFIELD CLUB CATTLE SHOW.

The Smithfield Club is sixty years old; and, though its noble patron, Francis, Duke of Bedford, declared in 1821 that its mission was accomplished, and that the most profitable kinds of sheep and cattle had been brought out, still it did not die, and now numbers about 300 members, who are enabled to award some £1,300 worth of prizes.

The history of the club tells us that the shorthorns have carried off most gold medals, while the Herefords have won the largest share of general prizes, the oxen of the two breeds being about equal as medalists, but the shorthorn cows always triumphing over their red and white sisters. Last year, the two honours went to a shorthorn ox and a shorthorn cow; and, at the present show, the breed is similarly triumphant.

The number of entries in the different classes are as follows:—Shorthorns, 42, the same as last year; Herefords, 26; Devons, 28—both considerably less than last year. Of cattle of cross or mixed breeds we have a large increase, there being no less than 23, or three times the number shown before. The other breeds amount to 52, not quite so many as on the last occasion. Sheep muster about the same number of entries as last year—namely, 129; and there are 58 pens of pigs, about equal to the previous show.

His Royal Highness the Prince Consort has carried off the head prizes both for young and aged Devon steers. The Earl of Leicester's second prize steer was considered superior by many. Among the Devon cows Mr. Gibbs carried the palm. Mr. Heath gained the prize for Hereford steers with an animal of unusual merit. His Royal Highness was fairly beaten in this class, and wins only a commendation in the class of Hereford oxen, which formed a fine feature in the show. Mr. Swinerton's prize ox gained the second prize at the Birmingham show. The Hereford cows are meritorious, some of them particularly fat. Mr. Hill is successful in this class.

The shorthorns are so far superior to those of the Birmingham show that the prize animals of last week were altogether eclipsed, except, indeed, that Mr. Stratton's magnificent steer, which took the first prize in its class there, is now honoured with the gold medal. Mr. Marriott's prize ox is remarkably fine; and, indeed, Earl Spencer's, the Earl of Radnor's, the Marquis of Exeter's, and several other extremely good beasts, made the shorthorn ox class very grand indeed. Mr. Brown's heifer won the gold medal for the "best cow or heifer," but being affected by a contagious distemper, had to be removed from the yard. The shorthorn cows are wonderfully fine, and Mr. Fletcher's cow the finest.

The Sussex cattle made a good show. The Scotch classes are, as usual, indebted to the Duke of Beaufort for some good specimens, Mr. Martin and Viscount Hill being also successful exhibitors. In the mixed breed classes are many good beasts, principally crosses of shorthorns with other breeds.

The show of sheep is uncommonly good—the short-wools and cross-breeds being more than equal to what has been witnessed on former occasions, and the long-wools and Leicesters better than we have yet seen them. Mr. Jordan takes the gold medal for his Leicesters. Mr. Foljambe, the Marquis of Exeter, Lord Berners, Mr. West, and Mr. Hewer, showing particularly good sheep. Mr. Overman's beautiful cross-breeds are successful in two classes; the Duke of Richmond, Mr. Ridden, and Lord Walsingham taking prizes with their beautifully-formed Downs. The show of pigs is excellent.

In the implement division of the exhibition, the principal novelties are Burgess and Key's new American grass-mower, for cutting hay more closely than the scythe; Samuelson's American reaping-machine, with a self-acting rake to deliver the cut corn in sheaf bundles; and an American corn-dressing machine for separating grain on an entirely new principle—an "exhaust" being combined with a blast and riddle.

THE EVENING SERVICES AT ST. PAUL'S.—The second of the evening services at St. Paul's Cathedral was attended by as dense a mass of persons as assembled to listen to the Bishop of London on the previous Sunday. Arrangements were made to prevent a repetition of the unpleasant scene which took place on the occasion of the first service; barriers were raised in the yard, so that all who could be accommodated got into the church without any difficulty. The doors were opened several times, and by six o'clock, a full hour before the time appointed for the commencement of the services, placards were posted on the gates announcing that the church was full. Internally the arrangements for the congregation were excellent, and every person who was admitted had a chair. The sermon was preached by Dean Milman.

REFORM AMONG "THE FRIENDS."—The leading members of the Society of Friends recently held a conference at the head-quarters of the sect in Houndsditch, to discuss some important changes in their regulations. The conference was invited to consider, first, the propriety of making such alterations in the existing rules of the Society as would allow of marriages being solemnised in their meetings for worship after the manner of Friends by persons who professed to be Friends, and attended their religious meetings, one only of the contracting parties being a member of the Society; and, secondly, between persons who professed to be Friends and attended their religious meetings, but neither of whom were members of the Society. The subject is one which materially concerns the Society itself, and also in some degree the general public, though the latter may not be at first sight apparent. During the last twenty years in this country the Society has been slightly but gradually decreasing in numbers. The aggregate numerical strength of the body in Great Britain is estimated at about 15,000. There are some who attribute not a little of the decline in their numbers to the stringency of the regulation respecting marriage, which recognises no union of that kind which is not solemnised in accordance with their own custom and between members of their own community. The tendency of this has been, it is believed, besides creating occasional heartburnings within the Society itself, to check its growth, and to threaten it, at some time or other, with total extinction. It has also, in one point of view, believed to have seriously affected the domestic relations of the Friends themselves, dooming many of them, and especially the women, to single life. The subject was discussed for four days, and the conference finally arrived at the conclusion that the first of the above stated propositions should be adopted.

COLLISION ON THE NORTH LONDON RAILWAY.—The fog of Monday night, which was exceedingly dense in the north-eastern suburbs of London, added to a certain want of prudence, led to a very alarming collision on the North London Railway. The trains on that line run every quarter of an hour, and in the intervals a good deal of goods traffic passes over the rails. Of course, great care is requisite in signalling and timing under such a system. The fog delayed the passenger trains, and the traffic got into confusion, for the goods trains still continued to run. The consequence was, that at the Hackney station a goods engine ran into a stationary passenger train, smashing the hindmost carriage, and seriously, if not fatally, injuring a number of the passengers.

SIR EDWIN LANDSEER'S DISTINGUISHED MEMBER OF THE HUMANE SOCIETY.

With the last No. of the "Illustrated Times" was issued a highly-finished large separate Engraving (beautifully printed upon plate paper), from Sir Edwin Landseer's celebrated picture of

A DISTINGUISHED MEMBER OF THE HUMANE SOCIETY.

SIR E. LANDSEER'S RETURN FROM HAWKING.

An Engraving of the above celebrated Work of Art was issued with the "Illustrated Times" for October 2. Size 20 inches by 14 inches. Price of the Newspaper and Plate, which are still on sale, 4d.; or free by post, Five Stamps.

THE ILLUSTRATED TIMES

MAPS OF LONDON, ENGLAND & WALES, IRELAND & SCOTLAND.

The following large and elaborately engraved Maps may be obtained at the Office of the "Illustrated Times," price 5d. each, including a number of the newspaper, or free by post for Seven Stamps:—

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3. MAPS OF IRELAND AND SCOTLAND, with all the Railways; size of each, 2 feet 4 inches by 1 foot 6 inches.

CHRISTMAS NUMBER OF THE WELCOME GUEST.

A Christmas Number of the "WELCOME GUEST," entitled

THE WEDDING RINGS OF SHRIMPINGTON SUPER MARE, WITH SOME

STORIES ABOUT THOSE WHO WORK THEM FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE, will appear (independent of the ordinary number) next week. George Augustus Sala, Adelaide Anne Proctor, John Lang, Augustus Mayhew, H. Sutherland Edwards, and Edmund H. Yates, are among the contributors to this number.

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ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1858.

STRUGGLES FOR LIGHT.

LAST week, at Manchester, Mr. Charles Dickens gave some instances, in public, of the struggles for self-education made by poor working people of the north, which we do not like to pass by without special notice. It has always been our opinion that it is to right, good, moral effort in this way that the people must owe their regeneration; and that there is no object agitated for in our time half so much worthy of support. We have read the narrative in question with something of that emotion inspired by the struggles for knowledge of those old scholars and men of science, whose biography is so noble a feature in the history of letters.

The occasion of Mr. Dickens's narrative was a meeting of the "Lancashire and Cheshire Institutional Association," held for the purpose of giving prizes to students. This association is the union or central head of no less than 114 local institutions and mutual improvement societies, scattered over the two great counties from which it takes its name. It exercises a kind of supremacy amongst them—sends round local teachers and (under the name of "Free Itinerating Libraries") boxes of books. Its examinations, therefore, give one an insight into the intellectual movement of that important part of England, and bring out some picturesque little bits of student life among the poor. We should contemplate these, not with any foolish ideas of patronising superiority, nor yet sentimentally only, but to see what advice we can render, and how more prosperous folks than the poor students can help them.

The examination papers comprise, it seems, both literature and science, as well as the French language. The competition must necessarily be large, yet observe under what circumstances—or, as the Owenists say, "surroundings"—men can carry away the prizes. Mr. Dickens shall give us one or two cases:—

"There are two poor brothers from near Chorley, who work from morning to night in a coalpit, and who, in all weathers, have walked eight miles a night three nights a week to attend the classes in which they have gained distinction. There are two other poor boys from Hollington, who began life as piecers at a shilling and eightpence a week, and the father of one of whom was cut to pieces by the machinery at which he worked, but not before he had himself founded the institution in which his son has since come to be taught. These two poor boys have taken the second-class prize in chemistry. There is among their number a most remarkable man, whose story I have read with feelings that I could not adequately express under any circumstances, and, least of all, when I know he hears me—who worked when he was a mere boy at handloom weaving until he dropped from fatigue—who began to teach himself as soon as he could earn 5s. a week—who is now a botanist, and acquainted with every production of the Lancashire valleys."

Few are capable of appreciating the strength of mind required to gain knowledge in such conditions as these fine fellows were placed in. If with every advantage of leisure and luxury, only a small minority learn for learning's sake, think what it must be to have to do it in the teeth of exhaustion from toil—narrowness of means—and every limitation that want of opportunity can impose on one who aspires. This sort of success is even more a moral than an intellectual triumph. If it implies more than common brains, it still more markedly implies superior courage, patience, and self-denial. Such a prizeman has not learned French only, or botany, or whatever else he may have studied to acquire. He has learned something much better—that knowledge is lovely for its own sake—that there are higher pleasures than the sensual ones—and that labour is its own reward. He is not only a better scholar but a better member of society than the idler or the dunce.

What we especially like about the result of these examinations is the *solidity* of study which they reveal in our working-folk. Nothing is learned easily, that is worth learning; and it is a different thing acquiring a science or a language, from acquiring the power of holding-forth in a tap-room on the state of Europe. We do not know anything that could be more beneficial to the public than that it should be thoroughly understood, that politics was a "science" as well as botany, for instance. In the sciences proper, a man can be brought to book. If he pretends to know botany, you can examine him at the nearest hedge. If he pretends to know French, you can ask him to read you a leader from a French newspaper. But if he only affects to know something infinitely more comprehensive—viz., how the condition of men is affected by their political insti-

tutions—that very comprehensiveness enables him to swagger with less chance of detection. We are of opinion that the habit of reading, as the men who are the subjects of Mr. Dickens's speech evidently read, will exercise the most wholesome influence on their class. Who would fear universal suffrage if he was sure that it would give the power to men who rose at four o'clock to investigate the subject on which they were going to vote?

It is, indeed, cheering, and rebukes our petty worship of "circumstances," to see what manly resolution can do for men determined to learn. How their luckier neighbours can help such men, it is not difficult to see. All "lionism" would be repulsive to their independence, and the hope of it would destroy the very grace of their labour—though a prize fairly won is open to no such objections. Let anybody desirous to aid such movement speed the passage of the "boxes of books" by all means; let him help his less opulent neighbour with the loan of books when he can; let him support with his influence the best "associations" in his neighbourhood. If all did this kind of thing heartily, there would be no need for us to be very anxious about the Education Question. The Education Question would answer itself.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

HER MAJESTY, THE PRINCE CONSORT, AND THE ROYAL FAMILY are now at Osborne. They propose to return to Windsor on the 24th instant for the Christmas holidays.

THE PRINCE OF WALES is to pass the winter in Rome. He will be accompanied by Dr. T. K. Chambers, Physician to St. Mary's Hospital, his medical attendant.

PRAYERS are offered up at present regularly in the Prussian churches for the safe delivery of the Princess Frederick-William, which event is expected about the end of January.

PRINCE ALFRED was to land at Gibraltar on the morning of the 29th inst., under a salute from the batteries.

A CASK AND TWO BAGS of GUSTOWDER were found one morning last week on the line near the Shields and Sunderland Junction of the North-Eastern Railway, along which trains were constantly passing.

THE SEA DEFENCES AT SHELLENS, which include five bastions, to enclose and protect the dockyard, barracks, and stores, are undergoing extensive alterations and improvements.

THE JEWS have signalled the present year in more ways than one. Baron Rothschild has taken his seat in the House of Commons, and Mr. Maurice Solomon has taken honours in four out of the five subdivisions of the degree of B.A. in the University of London—being the first time since a thing has been done.

CAPTAIN GEORGE GIFFARD, C.B., has been selected for the vacant post of service pension at the disposal of the First Lord of the Admiralty by the promotion of Captain Shepherd to flag rank, consequent on the demise of Vice-Admiral Lord Lyons.

A NEW CRICKET GROUND has been granted to the town of Hawick by the Duke of Buccleuch. The Duke not only grants the ground for the special use of the club, but intends having it properly laid out at his own expense.

THE QUEEN has not forgotten the author of the "Religion of Common Life." The "Gazette" announces that her Majesty has appointed the Rev. John Caird, M.A., to be one of her Chaplains in Ordinary in Scotland, in the room of Dr. James Paul, deceased.

THE COUNCIL OF INDIA has resolved that all appointments in the Indian Engineers and Artillery shall be thrown open absolutely to public competition, and that no nomination will be required.

A BURNING BELL, valued at £2,000, which hung in the park of Alderman Finnis, in Essex, has been stolen.

THE YIELD OF THE POTATO CROP of 1858, says the "Northern Whig," has been one of the finest raised in Ireland since 1840; that is, five years before the fatal pestilence developed itself.

THE INHABITANTS OF COVENTRY have presented Mr. Charles Dickens with a valuable gold watch, of their own manufacture, in return for a gratuitous reading of the "Christmas Carol" in December last.

THE DEANERY OF ELY has been conferred upon the Rev. Harvey Gledhill, B.D., of Caius College, and perpetual curate of St. Edward's, Cambridge.

BARON ROTHSCHILD has purchased Sir Fitzroy Kelly's mansion, adjoining his own house, and both houses are to be thrown into one mansion.

THE GOVERNMENT have it in contemplation to confer on the Earl of Elphinstone the highest rank in the Order of the Bath, on his return home from China.

FATHER GAVAZZI lectured at Cork last week in spite of a threatened row. The troops, the police, and a special official from Dublin, were at readiness to protect him, but no disturbance occurred.

A SENTENCE OF DIVORCE has been pronounced between Prince Frederick-William of Hanau, eldest son of the Elector of Hesse, and the daughter of the comedian Birnbaum.

AN ANTI-CONFESIONAL MEETING was held at Derby last week.

MR. WILLIAM COOKE, jun., of Astley's, had one of his legs severely injured in rehearsal. Her Majesty sent a special messenger from Windsor, next day, to inquire after Mr. Cooke's health.

A CALAMITOUS FIRE occurred on Sunday morning in a coffee-house, 61 Old Street, St. Luke's. The keeper of the house, Pound, escaped through the trap in the ceiling, but his wife and daughter, who were unable to follow him, perished.

THE SUBSCRIPTIONS towards the local expenses of the meeting at Aberdare of the British Association next autumn already amount to upwards of £400.

A DOUBLE DEVEL took place recently between M. de Villemessant, editor in chief of the "Pictorial," and M. Naquet, on the one hand; and between M. Lucas, editor of the same journal, and M. Plunkett, director of the Palais Royal Theatre, on the other hand. The weapons used were words, and all four combatants were wounded, but none seriously.

M. DE TOQUEVILLE is now dangerously ill at Cannes, we hear.

IT HAS TRANSPIRED that £500,000 employed last week by the Bank of England in India Bonds was not in the shape of an advance, but a direct loan of money, have at present some large balances lent out on government securities on the Stock Exchange.

A SUBSCRIPTION has been set on foot by Colonel Green for the purpose of commemorating the glorious career and death of Brigadier-General Nicholson.

THE BLY OF TUNIS has removed the prohibition on the exportation of grain; likewise on the importation of cattle, on which a duty of 12s. a head has been imposed.

THE PENINSULAR AND ORIENTAL COMPANY have purchased from a French company four large screw steamers—the Alma, the Comptoise, the Bataillon, and the Cadex.

"THE COUNTRIES OF LANDSEER" (Lola Montez) has been lecturing on "America and its People," at Dublin.

MR. PRARSON'S SCHEME for a subway railroad into the heart of the metropolis, and the establishment of suburban dwellings for the poor, which is to be carried backward and forward on the railway at less than a shilling a week, was discussed at a Mansion-house meeting last week. Lord John Russell and Baron Rothschild spoke in support of the project.

THE FRIENDS OF THE LATE MAJOR HOBSON in India are collecting subscriptions for the purpose of erecting a monumental tablet in the parish church of his native place.

MR. REDGRAVE, of the Royal Academy, is making a full and precise catalogue of the pictures in the several Royal collections.

AT THE WINCHESTER ASYLUM a child ten years of age has been convicted of setting fire to a barn, and causing the destruction of a great amount of property. There was no doubt that the child was the incendiary.

SIR RICHARD BROMLEY, K.C.B., Accountant-General of the Navy, has been nominated Under-Secretary of State for War, in the room of Sir John Lubbock.

AN ADMIRALTY ORDER was received at Chatham dockyard on Saturday directing that the officers and workmen employed at that establishment who have attained the age of seventy years, and who were to have been discharged on that day, were to be retained on the establishment until further orders.

A NEW ROOM is opened to the public in the British Museum, containing an extremely interesting collection of foreign plants and seeds—sections of the trunks of trees, showing their structure, and specimens of woods, British and foreign, polished and unpreserved. These objects represent, principally, the vegetation of southern climates.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

THERE would seem to be some hitch in the proceedings of those directing the affairs of the Dramatic College, and the principal impediment in the way of action appears to have been supplied by Mr. Henry Dodd, the gentleman whose name was received with such cheers by the meeting at the Princess's Theatre, as the donor of the land on which the College was to be erected. Nothing official has transpired; but if rumour may be credited, Mr. Dodd now transfers his gift with certain conditions, which the managers of the scheme cannot, in justice to the subscribers and themselves, accept. They have accordingly given Mr. Dodd a certain fixed time to rescind his recent proposition, at the expiration of which they hold themselves at liberty politely to decline the offer of the Berkshire land, and—out of the liberally-subscribed funds—to purchase some other building plot. It appears that the ground, which is in the neighbourhood of Slough, has risen considerably in value since it became known that the College was about to be erected thereon. Looking at the names on the bead-roll of the committee, I almost wonder that its members did not foresee the chance of any similar accident presenting itself, for among them, besides the theatrical professionals who are always remarkable for their knowledge of business, nearly every shrewd class of the community is represented: to wit, the aristocracy by the two gifted baronets who spoke so eloquently at the meeting; literature, not only by Mr. Dickens but by Mr. Thackeray, who has always been remarkable for the kind manner in which he has spoken of and limned actors and actresses (*vide* "Pendennis" *passim*); and who, since a certain unsuccessful attempt of his at dramatic writing some three years since, has been specially charitable to the "profession;" and journalism by the clear-headed and witty Mr. Peter Cunningham. Seriously, there is no doubt that whether it be built on Mr. Dodd's land or not, the Dramatic College will speedily be an accomplished fact, and it but rests with Mr. Dodd to decide whether his name shall go down to posterity as a benefactor to a deserving portion of the community, or be remembered but for a few years, and then in connection with dust-carts, hand-bells, and flap-hats.

The attack of your "facetious contemporary" upon me, and my observations upon baronets, is simply absurd. Had I, writing in my own person, attempted to stigmatise any half-dozen gentlemen by name, no amount of vituperation could be strong enough for me; but if I am to be condemned for anonymously alluding to six unnamed persons, the action writers, essay spinners, and novelists may give up business. As to the "coarse invective and abuse," I refer any one to the previous volumes of "Punch," containing articles on Silk Buckingham and Alfred Bunn (with the names printed in large capitals), and to the *verses* contained in the "Word with 'Punch,'" by the latter gentleman, since which he has been free from their gad-fly buzzings. Nor do I think it is particularly necessary to enter into controversy with a comic journal, which, in its current number, prints an article which is a deliberate plagiarism from a page of Mr. Sala's on "Evans's," published a month since in the "Welcome Guest," and which states, meaning it for a joke, that clerks in the Post-office should be "men of letters." Besides, even were the satire really bitter, and really deserved, it would be perfectly harmless, enshrined as it is in Messrs. Bradbury and Evans's type. Had it been made a subject by Mr. Leech, I should have shrunk from his cut, but as it is perfectly well-known that "Punch" is only taken in for the pictures, and that no one reads the nonsense which this very limited joint-stock-company prints, &c. You will understand! "Coarseness is not brilliancy, and slangy vituperation is not wit." Surely, I have read this before! Has the sage Tupper obtained ingress into the pastures of Whitefriars? It only needed his rectifying wisdom to temper the too-exuberant spirits of these old gentlemen, and still further depress the circulation of their periodical.

THE LITERARY LOUNGER.
THE MAGAZINES.

A VERY pleasant number of BLACKWOOD—diversified, learned, and amusing. The opening article, "A Cruise in Japanese Waters," evidently written by an officer of H.M.S. *Furious*, smacks of an earnest freshness, and has a natural, healthy tone, but rarely found amongst those travellers who start with a predestined purpose of book-making, and whose impressions are recorded under the perfect consciousness that their ultimate destination is either the printing-office or the waste-paper basket, according to the favour they may find in the eyes of the mysterious gentlemen who "read" for the great houses in the "Row." First, we have a rapid glance at Shanghai, the Liverpool of China, and learn that within sixteen years from the first opening of that port by the British gunboats to the ken of the world, the value of the European and American exports and imports amounts, at the present rate of exchange, to six millions sterling, of which the lion's share goes to or comes from Great Britain and her colonies. We have pictures of the scenes of activity which the waters around the city afford—"only the pool below London Bridge offering a similar sight;" pictures of the hardiness and pluck of the junk-seamen, of the wealth and prosperity of the mercantile community, and of the present well-being even of our English missionaries, who seem to have a fine field not only for their theological duties, but also for their temporal advancement. The popular mind, which is now all on the alert on the subject of Japan, will read with great interest the progress of the *Furious* from Shanghai to Nagasaki, written, as it is in "Blackwood," with so much spirit and nerve. The descriptions of the long fload of blue water leading past "beautiful Papenberg," of the Argus-eyed spies, who, in their little boats, dashed into the wake of the British steamer, and, as was afterwards found, gave the most accurate account of her tonnage and armament; of the full, round, and pan-like Dutch craft; the *Zeevart*, anchored off Nagasaki; of the Japanese officials, Dutch in their round jollity, American in their undying curiosity, and of the Dutch gentlemen belonging to the factory themselves, are most picturesque and interesting. The reading public will look forward with anxiety to the continuation of these excellent papers. "A Pleasant French Book" is the unsatisfactory title to an article based upon and treating of M. Biot's *Mélanges Scientifiques et Littéraires*, the republished essays, reviews, and biographies, extending over half a century, of one of the most agreeable and withal one of the most profound of French savans. Nothing can be more true, and nothing will more readily strike those who have studied the peculiarities of the thinkers of either nation, than the distinctive desideratum of French and German scientific men. While with the former the grand effort in his lucubrations is to be *clair*, to hit the tastes and command the sympathies of a brilliant audience, the latter chiefly aims at being *gründlich*, and dreads brilliancy, lest it should be mistaken for shallowness. I think I may somewhat assist this line of argument by stating, as an illustration, that the "Blackwood" men may be regarded as adopting the German, while the "Saturday Reviewers" follow the French style. This article is rich in anecdotes of Laplace, the author of the "Mécanique Céleste," of Biot's controversy with Sir David Brewster on our countryman's "Life of Newton," and of the "Biography of Galileo," drawn up by M. Biot from official documents. The September proceedings of the "International Copyright Congress at Brussels" are pleasantly detailed; and there is an earnest and hearty essay on "Sermons," apparently from the same pen which last month gave us the "Biography of Edward Irving," in which the *kudos* ascribed to the modern great Scottish preacher, Mr. Caird, is borne out by extracts from that gentleman's discourses, evincing heart, talent, and benevolence. The political article is devoted to Mr. "Bright's Absurdities;" and a short story, "Cousin John's Property," which is not above the average mark, make up the contents of the number. I almost forgot to add that Sir E. B. Lytton's "What will he do with it?" is concluded, and announced for early separate publication.

I should think that most persons at all acquainted with the talent and resources of Mr. George Henry Lewes, will be disappointed with his review of Carlyle's "Frederick the Great," which forms the opening article in FRASER. From one of the deepest thinkers, one of the

ablest reasoners, and one of the best German scholars of the day, we look for a clearer, more concise, and withal more original criticism than we here find. There is a great deal of extract strung together with connecting bits of very mediocre comment, generally laudatory but sufficiently vague; indeed the whole essay bears the "written to order" stamp about it, and is devoid of that brilliant freshness of imagination tempered with profundity of learning which is one of the leading characteristics of this, in general, most celebrated writer. "Japan" is also the subject here of an essay, but the treaty, in its commercial point of view, forms the basis of the article, and the various social grades, the manufactures, literature, &c., of our new ally, are broadly and statistically dismissed. There is a very pleasant chatty paper "Concerning Villas and Cottages," which may be read and enjoyed by any one untroubled with the slightest notion regarding architectural properties, and which bears the stamp of an educated gentlemanly mind; a somewhat fervent tribute to the late Dean of Ely, the conclusion of "Hamworth," the continuation of "Hector Garret, of Oke," an ornithological essay on "Snake Birds," and a spirited article on the recent Montalembert trial.

BENTLEY'S MISCELLANY, which I have not seen for years, appears, from the last number, which I have caught sight of by accident, to be as dull as ever. Such a dreary article, with four extracts, upon German Almanacs, in themselves the heaviest reading possible! Such bad verses about La Reine Margot, by Mr. Walter Thornbury—so bad that you must see a specimen!

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Such dull prosings, euphemically called "Mingle-Mangle," by Monkswood; such a dreary description of Gracchus, with a puff of the oculist, Dr. de L'euze! Who are the writers of this extraordinary periodical? Who is the editor? Wonder upon wonders, who are the purchasers?

THE ENGLISHMAN'S JOURNAL progresses steadily. Always sensible; always honest; always advocating the principles upon which it started, in a temperate, clear, and refined manner. The present number calls for no special remark; but it displays all the qualities I have named. I would warn the conductors generally against American reprints, and suggest the omission of the article "Passing Events," which comes too late to be a chronicle of news, while as a commentary it is weak and hurried.

THE AMATEUR'S MAGAZINE is a mistake. Anything which is worth printing, or worth paying for, will command a sale. The "public" does not want a "monthly medium" for "bringing the works of non-professional writers" before it. Besides, this periodical trenches on the ground of two publications—the "Saturday Review," which boasts of being conducted by "non-professional" writers, and "Bentley," which is self-evidently an amateur's magazine. Anyhow, a "professional" should look after the proof-sheets, and save us from such misprints as "The days of boyhood," or such a line in verse as "Then I taught my pen to dance."

Or is "my pen," a satisfied ally to Mr. Roebuck?

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

THE NEW BRITANNIA—THE DRAMATIC GOSSIP.

THE new Britannia Theatre, in the old Hoxton High Street, is the most complete and perfect structure of its kind in England. I paid it a visit the other night, in company with several professional friends, and we were all surprised by the size and beauty of the audience part of the building, the depth, breadth, and general capabilities of the stage, and the unusually comfortable arrangements in the front of the house. There are three distinct refreshment-rooms, upon the railway level, divided into first, second, and third-class—gallery, pit, and boxes. Though the tavern part of the establishment is now completely divided from the theatre, it still exerts its beneficial influence upon the character of the refreshments. Instead of noisy, noisy, stony-hearted pastry, cherry-brandy, like red turpentine and marbles, and inkly port that has been in a dusty decanter from pantomime to pantomime, there is plenty of good wholesome beer and ale, joints of meat and loaves of bread, and sandwiches piled up like mahogany planks at a timber wharf. The spirits you get are spirits; the wine is wine. Bottled beer is confined to the first-class refreshment-room, and draught beer to the second and third. There are male and female attendants in waiting, and every want is supplied in a manner that no other theatrical building has ever attempted. Walking along the broad passages, under the lofty arches and up the substantial stone staircases, the visitor, looking at the thick, plain brick walls, might fancy himself in the London terminus of the Great Northern Railway. The theatre can scarcely hold less than 4,000 people, the pit and gallery being the chief strongholds. The pit is so constructed that the stage can be seen from any point, and the gallery visitors, though equally as distant from the performers as they would be at her Majesty's Theatre, can hear the slightest melodramatic "aside" upon the stage. The audience are rough, but very attentive to the performance, and they have the aspect of working-people and small tradesmen. The bill has to be varied pretty frequently, the first piece, after running a fortnight, generally going second for another fortnight, when it dies out for ever. An author is kept on the establishment (like Mr. Morton at the Princess's), Mr. Dibdin Pitt having been the past occupant of the literary throne, Mr. Seaman being the present. With this provision, a steady audience for pit, gallery, and the common boxes is always found, without the unhealthy stimulant of any extraordinary or well-advertised attraction. The private boxes (when not specially let) are free to any one upon the payment of 2s. or 1s. 6d., according to the quality. The largest will hold a dozen people comfortably. The prices of the rest of the house are on the same moderate scale—boxes, 1s.; orchestral stalls, 1s.; box slips and pit, 6d.; lower gallery, 4d.; upper gallery, 3d. There is half-price to the pit at three-pence. The price of the play-bill (announced in large letters) is one halfpenny. This theatre may now be considered as having reached the climax of its importance. Twenty years ago it was a sing-song concert-room over a public-house; it then developed into a semi-dramatic, oblong saloon, with a stage at one end, and a gallery at the other. The fury of authority fell upon it, and for a long time it lost its acting and music license, and dragged on a melancholy existence with a piano and a few male and female vocalists. It was during this period of its history, that a young man danced a couple of hornpipes one night (Lancashire clog and sailor's) and was much admired. His name was Flexmore, now the celebrated pantomimist. After some time the official furies were satisfied, and a large, but clumsy theatre sprang up in the place of the saloon, which was so constructed that those who tried to descend a ladder from the private boxes on the prompter's side, generally rang the curtain bell, and caused the farce or drama to terminate somewhat abruptly. A few more years pass by, and one day we hear that Mr. S. Lane is determined to rebuild his property. The old theatre is pulled down, and in four months upon a dismal waste of oyster-shells, broken saucers, and dead dogs and cats the present building is erected, at a cost, without the decorations, of about eight thousand pounds. It is not intended for an age, but for all time, and when nothing is left of your faithful and indefatigable Lounger, but letters and lying memoirs, a few newspaper paragraphs from friendly and unfriendly hands, and a family tablet in a joint-stock company's cemetery (limited), the Britannia will rule the dramatic destinies of those outlying eastern districts of the great metropolis, which though not lovely enough to be admired, are too important to be despised.

At the Olympic has been produced a two-act serio comic drama, called "The Porter's Knot," having for its origin a French piece called "Les Crochets du Père Martin," but so completely Anglicised in tone, situation, and dialogue by the adapter, Mr. John Oxenford, as to be well worthy of consideration as an excellent specimen of provision for the tastes of a refined and cultivated audience. Levezac, a quire of paper, and a pen and ink, generally constitute the necessary stock-in-trade of the English adapter of a French comedy; but Mr. Oxenford,

besides being one of the first linguists of the day, possesses excellent taste, and a perfect knowledge of the dramatic requirements of an English audience, and, as in the present instance, never scruples at the exclusion of even an entire act for the attainment of his purpose. The plot of the piece under notice is as follows: Sampson Burr (Mr. Robson) is a retired porter, living in the sea-port town where his fortune has been made, and living but for his son Augustus (Mr. W. Gordon), a medical student in London, whose diploma, just received, is framed and glazed, and hung up in the place of honour next to the other great trophy of the Burr family—the old "knot," so often carried by the doughty Sampson, Augustus has returned home for a short time and is dull and dejected; this is noted by his mother (Mrs. Leigh Murray) and his pretty cousin Alice (Miss Hughes), but he laughs off their inquiries, and we do not learn the cause of his low spirits until the arrival of a first friend from London, Stephen Scatter (Mr. G. Vining), when we find that Master Augustus Burr is swamped in pecuniary trouble. The secret visit of a bill-discounting attorney, Mr. Smirk (Mr. H. Wigan), breaks to old Sampson the dreadful news that his son has given acceptances to the amount of £2,000. Ruin and a prison are threatened for the son, should the father not step in to his rescue. After a most painful scene of hesitation, the parental feelings prevail, and the old man consents to pay the debt. Luckily at the dinner-table appears Captain Oakham, an old friend of the family, to whom Sampson privately confides the story, at the same time telling, to quiet the apprehensions of his wife, a fictitious story of a neighbour who had ruined himself by speculation, and whose son was compelled to go away to sea. He begs his friend the captain, who is about to sail for Australia, to take the lad on board his ship. Augustus, repentant and conscience-stricken, sees the drift of the story, and makes up his mind to depart, and it is not until the signal-gun is fired, that the old man tells his wife and niece that the story is not a feigned one, and that the son and lover has departed. So concludes the first act. In the second, we find old Sampson Burr once more at his porter's work, broken in health, but buoyant in spirit; ever thinking of that prodigal son of whose safe arrival he had, indeed, heard, but from whom he had long been without news. All his property has gone to satisfy Mr. Smirk; but he bails on at his old life, cheered by the devotion of his wife and niece, and by the kind attention of Stephen Scatter, now become a smart railway official. Mrs. Burr joining for news of her son, old Sampson and Alice have between them concocted a fictitious letter from him; but while this is being read, the supposed writer actually arrives. Single-handed he has saved the cargo of his ship, and the life of his captain, and is taken into partnership by its owners! This, the only absurd bit of the whole piece, restores the fortunes of the family, and brings down the curtain happily. The piece was excellently acted throughout; and Mr. Robson was never seen to such advantage. But on matters of detail, I refer you to my valued correspondent "Trois-Etoiles," from whom I have received the following letter:—

"December 4, 1858.

"Dear Mr. Lounger, I had night when I wrote said the new piece at the Olympic, which, as you must remember, and in reference to the pleasant little theatre which had been ordered a few weeks since by the fumes from 'The Red Vid,' I managed to get two slight yet not trivial matters susceptible of improvement. The first ought to seem to me to be on the part of Mr. Robson. As the piece is called 'The Porter's Knot,' and continual allusion is made to it, I thought, I think, have used the knot instead of the truck in the second act, as it would have been more in accordance with truth to nature and better for dramatic effect. For it is much easier to wheel a load than to carry one, and a weight that a man would stagger under a boy could wheel with ease. And by using the knot he would have been obliged to get rid of the anomaly of a hat which he wears, about as likely a head-covering for a porter as the Lord Mayor's state-coach from conveyance in Venice. The next oversight is the sailor's dress, worn by Mr. Gordon, who inhabits in the truck of all junes premiers and première danseuses, a perpetuated smile. If this young actor will take the trouble to walk down to the docks and Ratcliff Highway, some morning after rehearsal, he may see how admirably adapted to use, and how picturesque a sailor's dress of the present day is. It enables the wearer to be as agile as a cat, and it unites the two great elements of beauty in dress—the complete ensemble and the perfect display of the figure. With his large, loose, square-coloured shirt, displaying his bronzed neck, and hiding his body down to the hips; his unbuttoned trousers fitting his loins like a vice, and his clasp-knife dangling from a plated whip-cord girdle, a young sailor of the nineteenth century is as dashing-dressed a fellow as any you will meet in the pages of Bonnard, and yet this dress, to be seen by hundreds as the sacrifice of an hour's time and an omnibus fare, and to be purchased for a few shillings, is assumed by Mr. Gordon in so dowdy a fashion, that it makes him a sight to see. As for the piece itself, it is the prettiest little drama I have seen for many a day, and the very best part I have seen Mr. Robson act; but the author might as well have made the son confess himself the cause of the family misfortune when the document takes place. As the thing stands he cuts a rather despicable figure in point of moral courage, which the audience sees, or might see, he has an opportunity of exercising, and cuts rather too wonderful a figure in physical courage according to his father's description. I say the audience might see this, but I don't think it does, because I don't think it sees that Mr. Robson is a great tragic actor. At any rate some of his most touching bits of acting were received as pieces of low comedy. But I know that many people think there is no tragedy when the dagger and the bowl are absent, and the suit of sables put by, and five acts of blank verse are wanting. Yours truly,

"Trois Etoiles."

The burlesque at the Olympic will be written, it is said, by Mr. Byron.

Her Majesty has secured a box for the English Opera Season at Covent Garden.

THE POST-OFFICE AUTHORITIES have increased the pay of the letter-carriers. Formerly, they began with 19s. a week, raised by an annual increment of a shilling to 23s. Now, they are to commence at 18s., and rise to 25s. In future, no one over twenty-one years of age will be appointed a letter-carrier.

THE BROTHERS, a large fishing-boat engaged in the north-east trade, is supposed to be lost, with her crew of eleven hands. The Brothers belonged to Yarmouth, Norfolk, and when last spoken with was sailing in the direction of Cromer.

A ROUGH-HEWED STONE, similar to those at Stonehenge, is to be erected over the body of John Britton, the archaeologist, in Norwood cemetery.

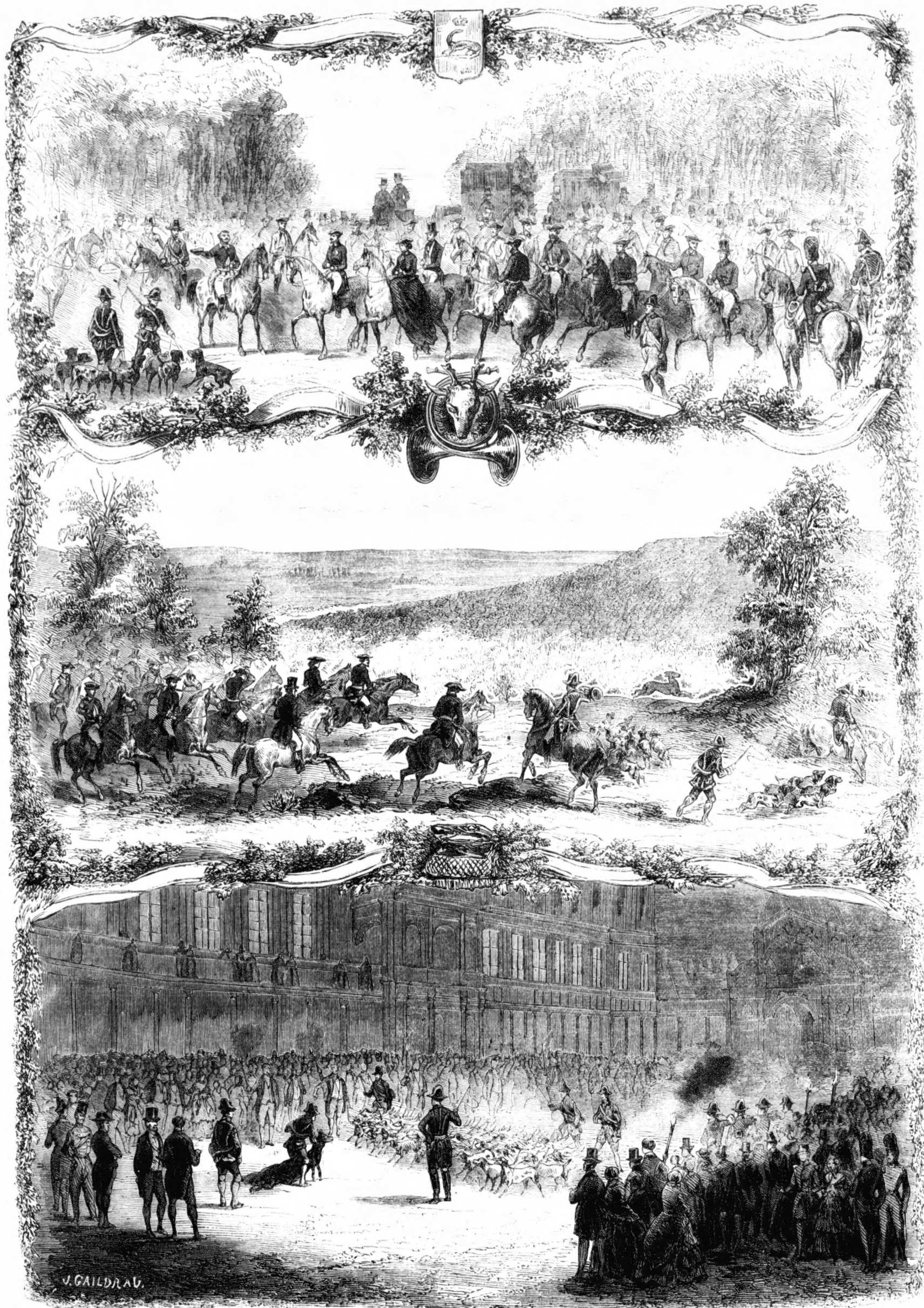
BARON GROS has succeeded in concluding a treaty with the Emperor of Japan similar to that signed by Lord Elgin, and published in the English papers.

THE RECORDERSHIP OF THE BOROUGH OF NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYNE has been conferred upon Mr. T. C. Sneyd Kynnersley, barrister-at-law, stipendiary magistrate of Birmingham.

A NOVELTY IN PHOTOGRAPHY is issued by Mr. Annadio, in the shape of microscopic portraits of eminent persons. These portraits are all but invisible to the "naked eye," but appear with beautiful distinctness under the microscope. A half-dozen of them might be contained in a finger ring of the ordinary "signet" size. Portraits of Dickens and Albert Smith have already appeared.

THE IMPERIAL FETES AT COMPIEGNE.

At length the modern Caesar has brought the sylvan festivities of his court to a close, and quitted the *Louis Quinze* costume for the more unpicturesque surcoat and continuations of every-day life. We have already had occasion to notice, with what facility Louis Napoleon assumes the various characters for which he casts himself; and he has really succeeded admirably in imitating the spendthrift extravagance of one of the most depraved periods in French history. It is said that the fancy dresses of the Imperial party at Compiègne cost many hundred thousand francs, and the various hunting excursions as many more. Balls, banquets, and theatrical performances have absorbed immense sums; and it is estimated, that altogether a few weeks of revelry in the old chateau of Compiègne has run away with something like six millions of francs (£240,000). To us Englishmen this seems a large sum of money to squander on masquerading through forests—of getting up "raree shows" in the woods; but this is no business of ours—France has presented her Emperor with an open cheque, and of course he draws largely on the national bank. We have engraved various episodes from the Imperial hunts, and have described them in former numbers of the "Illustrated Times;" there is nothing to add here.



THE IMPERIAL HUNT AT COMPEIGNE.



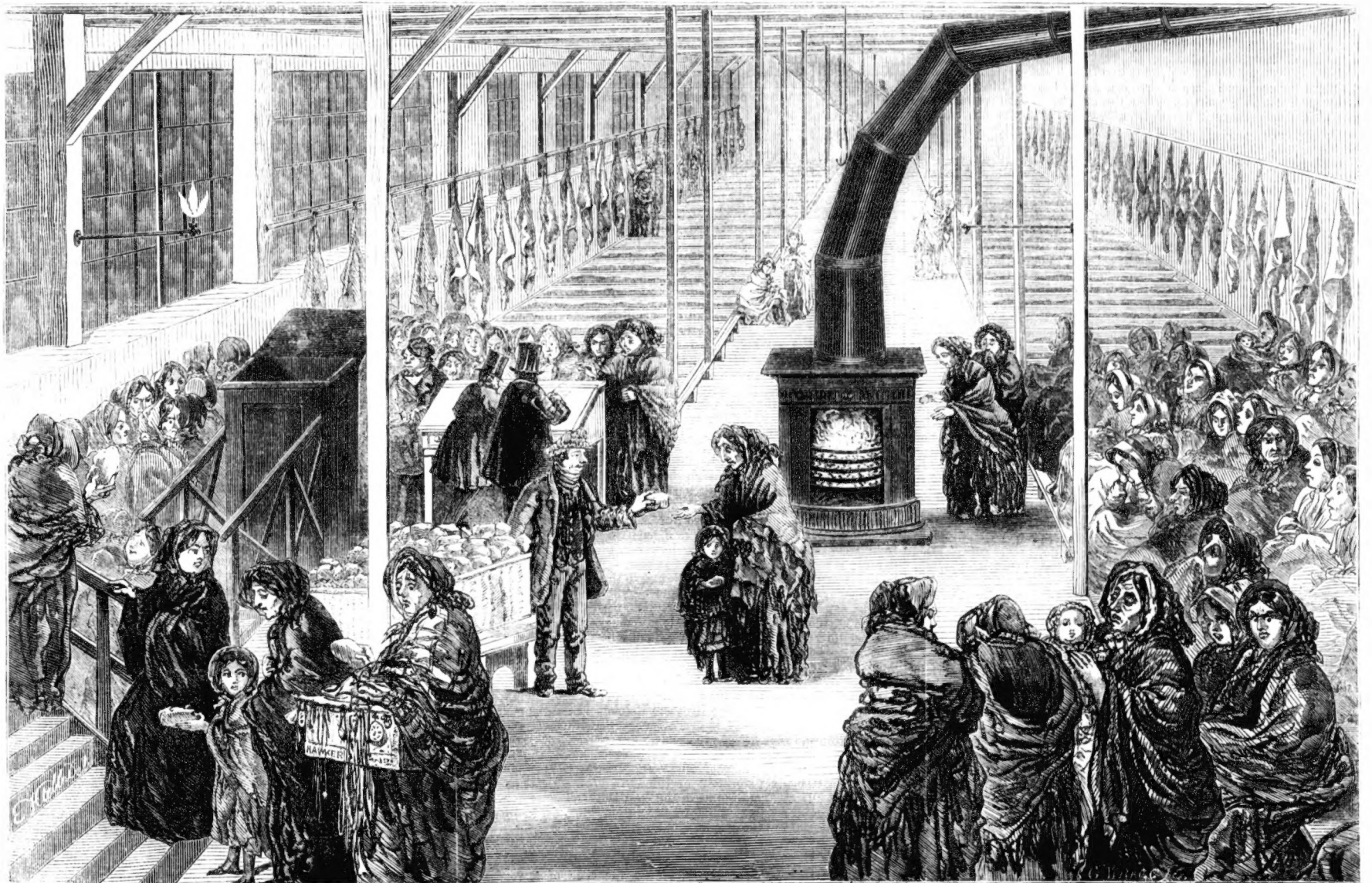
INSTITUTION FOR THE HOUSELESS POOR: ADMISSION ROOM.

INSTITUTION FOR THE HOUSELESS POOR.

We have read in numberless treatises on political economy, and seen it proved by irrefragable logic, that to give relief to the poor is to encourage and increase poverty; and that every penny that we give to a beggar is a seed which will grow more beggars; and we are not dis-

posed to dispute all this. Indeed, we partly believe it; but still we shall drop an occasional obolus into Belisarius's hat, and continue to support with our influence if not with our money (of which we have, alas, but little to spare) such institutions as that which we are now about to introduce to the notice of our readers. We have a propensity

to obey our instincts rather than the deductions of logic. And, moreover, long years ago, when we were young, we were taught to read an old-fashioned book called the Bible, which is quite opposed to many of the conclusions of political economists; and as early impressions are proverbially stronger than those received later in life, it happens that



INSTITUTION FOR THE HOUSELESS POOR: WOMEN'S DORMITORY.

when we see a poor shivering wretch by the wayside, the lessons which we received in our childhood rush into our minds, and drive out all the severe logical reasonings of the M'Crowdie school. Such passages from Holy Writ as these, for instance: "The poor ye have always with you," "Blessed be he that considereth the poor: the Lord will deliver him in time of trouble," "Thou shalt open thine hands unto thy brother, to thy poor, and to thy needy in thy lands," "Whoso stoppeth his ears at the cry of the poor, he also shall cry himself, and not be heard," and a thousand more like unto them which might be quoted from the same book. "But have we not poor-laws and workhouses?" Of course we have—what householder does not know it? But we also know that, notwithstanding poor-laws and workhouses, and assiduous guardians and relieving officers, it is still a melancholy fact, that there are thousands in this vast unmanageable city who in hard times hunger, and have no food; and hundreds who in the cold winter nights wander about our streets, and lanes, and parks, having nowhere to lay their heads.

The office of the "Institution for the Houseless Poor" is at 75, Old Broad Street; its "Refuge" is in Playhouse Yard, Whitecross Street. When we first saw the name of this society, we had an impression that the applicants for nightly shelter were principally those homeless vagabonds whom the law terms "vagrants," men and women who frequent our fairs and races, and are familiarly known by the term "cudgers." But on looking over the classified list, we are disposed to think that but comparatively few of this class take advantage of the Refuge. Most of the applicants seem to be persons who generally work for their living, but who are by sudden exigencies, such as the severity of the weather, stagnation of trade, &c., thrown out of employ. In the list for the last year, there are under the head of labourers, 1,767; women and children without occupation, 751; seamen, 512; needlewomen, 500; charwomen, 448; servants, 238; hawkers, 204; errand-boys, 190; smiths, 144; boot and shoemakers, 113; tailors, 97; carpenters, 88; and then in smaller numbers representatives of almost all the trades that are carried on in this vast city. In all there are 110 different trades or professions named in the list. Perhaps among the "women and children with no occupation," and the "hawkers," there may be members of the vagrant class; but generally the applicants consist of men, and women, and children, whom depression of trade, or some other exigency, deprives of their fitful and uncertain employment. The total number of persons admitted to the Refuge in 1857-58 was 6,092; the number of night lodgings afforded was 53,311; and the average number of persons admitted appears to have been about 500; 600 are not unfrequently accommodated, and sometimes the number has touched 700. The institution was established in 1819, nearly forty years ago, and was intended to "afford nightly shelter to the absolutely destitute and homeless during the inclement winter season." "Homeless and destitute" is the qualification for admission into this asylum. If the applicants belong to the metropolis, they have a ticket given them for three nights' lodging; if they are strangers, they may have a ticket for seven nights. On admission, each receives half a pound of bread; and on leaving in the morning, another piece of bread of the same weight. This is considered enough to satisfy present want, but not sufficient to tempt a too frequent application.

Our first engraving gives a view of the admission-room. The crowd in the background consists of applicants waiting for tickets of admission. The people in the front are applying to have their tickets renewed; for renewals are allowed under special circumstances. The other engraving presents a view of one of the wards or dormitories. These sleeping apartments are furnished with mattresses ranged on each side of the room, and separated from each other by a low partition. The mattresses are stuffed with cocoa-nut fibre, and covered with waterproof sheeting. There are no bed-clothes, but at the head of each mattress there hangs a bairn skin which serves for a coverlet. But as the occupants of the mattresses do not undress, and these rooms are well warmed by stoves, they are not cold. There is no luxury here, nor much provision made for what well-to-do people would consider comfort. And this is right; for it is obvious that it would not do to make what is only intended for a temporary refuge too attractive; but there is food, fire, shelter, and the means of resting the wearied limbs. Some of the poor wretches who have tramped up to town from the country in the hope of finding work, come to the Refuge in the most pitiable condition. They have tramped about the streets and lanes day after day, and all day long, seeking for employment and finding none; and after having spent their last penny, and gone long wearisome hours without food or rest, when they enter the Refuge their stomachs refuse all solid food. In such cases the surgeon is consulted, and, with his sanction, warm gruel and brandy are administered. If there were no such place as this Refuge for the destitute and homeless, these poor fellows must die in the streets. That these cases are not uncommon may be inferred from the fact that, though brandy is never given but in extreme cases, or without the sanction of the medical officer, five gallons are annually consumed. Of course the "regulation" drink is water, of which plenty is provided, both for drink and ablution. On Sunday, the inmates are allowed to stop all day; and to all who avail themselves of this privilege an additional half-pound of bread with three ounces of cheese is allowed; and they have the advantage of attending Divine worship, conducted by the chaplain. We need hardly say that at night the men and boys have apartments to themselves. One of the most affecting items in the classified list, to our minds, is that of "needlewomen, 500." These, we presume, belong to that class which is employed in making shirts, braces, slop waistcoats, &c., for the cheap clothing shops, and in working for army and navy contractors. Whilst they are in full employment, they can hardly earn enough to keep body and soul together; and when employment fails, they must go to the workhouse or to the Refuge. What a contrast suggests itself to the mind between the gorgeous show of plate glass and gas chandeliers which is presented by the cheap clothing shops, the handsome villas of the clothier and the contractor, and these miserable, half-starved needlewomen, out of whose bones and sinews the wealth thus indicated is wrung! Your contractor and slop-seller rides down to his office or shop in his brougham, stops there some five or six hours, and then rides back to his villa at Putney or Wimbledon; and the miserable homeless "producer" of his wealth crawls away to the workhouse or the refuge—or at best can earn only just enough to maintain a wretched existence in a garret worse than either. Verily there is something rotten in our boasted civilisation if this be one of its necessary results! On looking over the list of the subscribers to this noble institution, we wondered whether any of these slop manufacturers and contractors contribute to its funds. There may be some who do, but certainly some whom we know do not, unless they modestly conceal themselves under initials.

On mentioning this noble charity the other day to a city friend of ours, we were met with the objection that probably most of the applicants for shelter in the Refuge, were men and women of indifferent character; but we stopped this pharisaic cant by asking him whether he really thought that the wealth and poverty in this London are distributed according to desert, and by reminding him of a certain famous sermon, delivered on a mount, 1,800 years ago, in which we are reminded that "Our Father in heaven maketh His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sendeth rain on the just and the unjust."

A word or two on the monetary affairs of this excellent society, and we will conclude. When the institution was first founded, the cash literally rolled in; but almost all its original supporters are gone, other societies have risen up, which have drawn away public attention somewhat from this, and though it is not really languishing for want of funds, yet we are sorry to learn that lately it has been obliged to trench upon its funded property to meet its current expenses. And yet, considering the vast wealth of London—and especially of the "City," in which this society is located—its income is not large. The whole amount of subscription last year did not much exceed £700. It is said there is a luxury in doing good; if this be so, where can a wealthy man find a cheaper luxury than here?

Literature.

GIFT BOOKS FOR THE COMING SEASON.

1. *Wordsworth's Poems*. Illustrated.—2. *Goldsmith's Poems*. Illustrated.—3. *Odes and Sonnets*. Illustrated. London: Routledge and Co.

These three handsome volumes, carefully edited, admirably illustrated, and magnificently printed and bound, are published by Messrs. Routledge, who in addition to their reputation as cheap publishers, are now acquiring a name for their illustrated drawing-room editions. Wordsworth is illustrated with a hundred designs by Birket Foster, J. Wolf, and John Gilbert, which are engraved by the brothers Dalziel. It is seldom such woodcuts are seen as those which adorn this volume. The selection and treatment of the subjects are, in nearly all instances, deserving of high praise. In illustrating poems, many artists of celebrity fail—in spite of undeniable talent—from inability to enter into the spirit of the author. They do not seem to understand that to illustrate is to make bright and clear—to interpret in a lucid manner; and that the "illustrator" ought to endeavour, as far as possible, to tell with his pencil the story that the poet has already told with his pen. Instead of this, we are in too many cases favoured with the portrait of the hero or heroine, or of the personage by whom the poem or ballad is supposed to be sung, or with a representation of some object introduced into it, or of some scene connected in only a very remote manner with the main subject. These are faults which are always found in volumes illustrated by a large number of artists. Out of twenty, not more than two or three seem to understand the art of illustrating, which is a very different thing from mere painting or drawing. Thus a bad draughtsman may illustrate a book well, if he can only produce a design that shall embody the author's meaning, and impress it vividly upon all who see the picture; whereas the cleverest of draughtsmen will fail, unless, in the first instance, he succeeds in getting to the heart of the subject he has undertaken to treat. We once heard of an artist who had resolved to illustrate Shakespeare, and who certainly had not studied Kenny Meadows' admirable edition, for when he came to the lines in "Othello"—

"That handkerchief

Did an Egyptian to my mother give," &c.

he simply drew the portrait of an Egyptian presenting Mrs. Othello with a pocket-handkerchief. This seems absurd, but we could mention more than one academical, who in attempting to illustrate a book, has committed absurdities quite equal to it; now one of the great merits of the Wordsworth at present before us is that it is intelligently illustrated. Of course, for the illustrations to be perfect it would be necessary that the artists should possess as much poetic genius as Wordsworth himself. In the "Pet Lamb," the poet tells us:—

"Towards the lamb she looked; and from that shady place
I unobserved could see the workings of her face;
If nature to her tongue could measure numbers bring,
Thus, thought I, to her lamb that little maid might sing."

Now only an artist with the grace, tenderness and knowledge of Raphael, could represent a child's countenance so full of poetry as that of little Barbara's was in the eyes of Wordsworth, when, unobserved, he "saw the workings of her face," and fancied what, if inspired by nature, she might sing. Nevertheless, Mr. Gilbert has drawn a pretty little girl and a pretty little lamb, and has given a good deal of the sentiment of the scene. In Mr. Gilbert's illustration to "We are seven," we have simply an old man talking to a child, who is pointing to the church, seen in the distance, where, "Two in the churchyard laid." Here again only the external side of the poem is rendered, though as far as the figures and composition are concerned, the picture is admirable. Probably of all Mr. Gilbert's illustrations in this volume, the best is the very effective one which accompanies the poem of "Lucy Gray," and which indicates the critical moment:—

"When in the snow the mother spied,
The print of Lucy's feet."

Mr. Wolf seems to affect designs in which animals can be introduced. Thus, in "Resolution and Independence," he seizes on the line—

"The hare is running races in her mirth,"

and makes it a pretext for representing a race of hares. (Observe, by-the-by, the admirable figure of the "Leech-gatherer," by Mr. Birket Foster in this poem). Again, in the "Excursion," where these lines occur—

"Birds and beasts,
And the mute fish that glances in the stream,
And the harmless reptile coiling in the sun,
And gorgeous insect hovering in the air,
The fowl domestic and the household dog,
In his capacious mind he loved them all—"

Mr. Wolf, either because he mistakes the accessory for the principal, or from a blind partiality for animals, does not attempt to show us the man who loved God's creatures, but merely represents a few of the creatures who were loved, that is to say, some "fowls domestic," and "a household dog." On the other hand, the well-known description of the swans in the "Evening Walk," is well realised.

The great majority of the illustrations to the Wordsworth are designed by Mr. Birket Foster. Some are landscapes, others scenes with figures, others, again, figures alone; but all are full of beauty—most of them in conception as well as in execution, and to praise Mr. Birket Foster for his execution is almost superfluous. Young Romilly taking the fatal leap over the chasm, and similar pictures of incidents related in the poems, do not, however, give a just idea of Mr. Foster's great talent; nor do the single figures, exquisitely as they are drawn. Besides, in "Bolton Priory," it is not the death of the son, but the grief of the mother, that really forms the subject of the poem. In the landscapes, the artist is free, and, as far as becomes him, independent. Here there is no literal copying of the details introduced by the poet; the general effect of the scene is given as the artist understands it from the poet's description, and in many cases the reproduction is perfect, while the picture, considered by itself, is always deserving of commendation. It is impossible to praise too highly such woodcuts as the frontispiece ("Lower Fall, Rydal"), the "View of the Thames at Richmond" (for the "Remembrance of Collins") and, in short, nearly all those which bear Mr. Birket Foster's name as designer. The two last pictures to the "Poems on the Naming of Places," are truly marvellous.

"Goldsmith's Poems" are also illustrated by Mr. Birket Foster; but his and Mr. H. N. Humphreys' designs have been printed in colours from wood-blocks. The colours, however, are hardly the colours of nature; nevertheless, the printing has been skilfully done; the volume is richly and tastefully "got up," and to those persons who have not a particular aversion to printing in colours, however well executed, it may be safely recommended as an elegant and showy gift book. We must add, that the Rev. R. A. Wilmot contributes a brief but satisfactory life of Goldsmith; and we should have mentioned that this gentleman has done similar good service for the "Wordsworth" volume.

In the illustrated volume of "Odes and Sonnets," Mr. Birket Foster is again the designer, while the ornamentation is by John Sleight, and the engraving and printing by the Brothers Dalziel. Here the pictures are again printed in tints, but less positive ones than those of the volume just mentioned. The designs themselves are in excellent taste, and the book is most elegantly printed; but we have before us the illustrated "Wordsworth" (open at page 65), with Mr. Foster's magnificent fir-grove (the "stately fir-grove" of the sixth of the "Poems on the Naming of Places") staring us in the face, and we cannot help saying that we much prefer its rich black and white to the more brilliant hues of the illustrations to the "Odes and Sonnets."

The Merrie Days of England. Illustrated. London: Kent and Co.

THE "Merrie Days of England" is the title of a very handsome volume of "Sketches of the Olden Time," written by Edward M'Dermott, and illustrated by Joseph Nash, George Thomas,

Edward Corbould, and Birket Foster. The author or editor, in a series of pleasantly-written papers, pictures to us the days when "the strife for existence was not so keen, nor the struggle for competition so fierce as it is now." Writing in the character of an old man who "loves the good old ways," he recalls the scenes which, if he were at the present moment a middle-aged Methuselah, would have occurred during his childhood. "Pale students, deeply read in their Hallams, their Humes, and their Rapins, tell us," he says, "that there were then no railways, no electric telegraphs, and no leviathan steamers." Alas! we know it, and we read, too, that there were then "no commercial panics, no monster workhouses, nor some other of the types of modern times and products of the iron and progressive age." Mr. M'Dermott is of opinion that our working-classes would be happier with less advice, and a greater amount of rational amusement, than they enjoy in the present day. In his chapter on the "Harvest Home," he tells us that there are some quaint people, even now, who love the good old times, and rejoice to hear the jovial song of the harvestmen, while there are "potent, grave and reverend seignors," who seek to celebrate the wheaten festival by interesting lectures on "Common Things," and sage advice to

"A merry and artless throng, whose souls
Beam through untutored glances!"—

to patronise savings' banks and subscribe to burial societies. There is another innovation, too, which might have been mentioned, as having a still more direct effect in destroying the pleasures of the harvest season—namely, the abolition of gleaming, which no intelligent and economical proprietor will now tolerate. In his chapter on our obsolete sports, the author explains how they have necessarily gone out of fashion, as for instance, Hawking, of which he says that "the sport of hawking, like that of archery, gave way to other pursuits; and the fowling-piece superseded the hooded hawk, which, since the days of Alfred, had been held in such high esteem by the gentle born and chivalrous spirits of 'Old England.'" Pilgrimages, even in those countries which have not been affected by the Reformation, are now being put an end to—or, at all events, stripped of all their supposed merit—by the introduction of railways. The French devotee can go to Mont St. Michel by railway, and down less procures his return ticket at a reduced charge. Trèves can also be reached by rail, and in time the Russians will be able to visit Mount Athos and Jerusalem by similar means. It will be pleasant, but it will certainly be less interesting. Mr. M'Dermott says, that decidedly the most picturesque features of "England's merrie days" are those connected with the pilgrimages and journeyings of the people. "A visit to Canterbury or to Walsingham, was, in old times, a matter of no small difficulty; but our ancestors entered upon the work careless of obstacles, and thought less seriously of the fatigues of the road, than do the excursionists of the present day in taking their return-tickets for the famous shrine of à-Beckett, or 'eight hours at the sea-side.'" The principal subjects treated by the author are the May-day Games, Plays and Mysteries, Hunting, Hawking, and Angling, Jousts and Tournaments, Baronial Feasts, Wandering Minstrels, Christmas Tide, &c.; to illustrate which he has, in his own words, "culled from poets and writers who lived in the 'Olden Time,' and from a few of our own day (especially Mr. Walter Thornbury and Mr. Mackay), who have studied the past, some description of the sports, the pastimes, and the occupations of our forefathers, even when living amid wars and rumours of war, civil dissensions, and much, perhaps, that might well have been spared for history to record." When it is modestly added that the pen and pencil sketches are not submitted as finished pictures, we demur on behalf of Mr. Birket Foster and the engraver and printer who aided him in producing Norham Castle and the Abbey's Ruined Walls—two of the most finished pictures in the shape of woodcuts that have ever appeared. Nor can any thing be more perfect than the "Angler's Morning" by the same designer. There are but few of the illustrations to this volume which are not deserving of praise. Those of Mr. George Thomas are exceedingly bright and lively, but for some reason or other he has thought fit to give the alms-distributing porter of the old English gentleman the semblance of a drunken pantaloon.

"White was his beard, as is the daisy;
Of his complexion he was sanguine;"

says Chaucer of the old gentleman who travelled with the pilgrims to Canterbury; and upon this hint Mr. Thomas seems to have conceived his unpleasantly coarse figure of the porter. We must add that his Milkmaid, his Hock Cart, and his Robin Hood are admirable.

The White Doe of Rylstone. Illustrated. London: Longman and Co.

THE "White Doe of Rylstone," with illustrations by Birket Foster and H. N. Humphreys, engraved by Henry N. Woods, is a magnificent pictorial edition of Wordsworth's celebrated poem, with the notes, introduction, &c., complete. The various landscape subjects have been drawn from original and authentic sketches, and are all executed by Mr. Birket Foster, who, as we have already said, in reference to Wilmot's Wordsworth, enters into the spirit of Wordsworth's poetry more fully than any other of his illustrators. The "White Doe of Rylstone" has, in our eyes, the peculiar advantage of being illustrated by one artist alone, if we except the ornamental half-titles, which have been executed by Mr. Noel Humphreys with singular originality and taste. The result is a certain kind of harmony throughout the entire work, which is very rarely attained in the ordinary illustrated book. Indeed, the thirty pictures contributed by Mr. Birket Foster to this handsome volume are so many little master-pieces, and fortunately the engraving of them is in every respect worthy of the drawing.

Milton's L'Allegro. Illustrated. London: S. Low and Son.

A PICTORIAL edition of Milton's "L'Allegro," finely printed, and generally well "got up," has just been published by Messrs. Sampson Low and Son. The illustrations engraved on wood by Mr. W. J. Linton, are copied, with permission, from the well-known edition of "L'Allegro," published some ten years since by the Etching Club; which, in order to secure the excellence of the impressions, only a limited number of the etchings were printed. Mr. Linton's name is a sufficient guarantee for the excellence of the engravings, which will no doubt have the effect of making the designs of Messrs. Cope, Creswick, Horsley, Redgrave, &c., very popular. It is rather late now to praise these designs, and perhaps it would be equally inopportune to find fault with some of them. Certainly they possess very great merits of execution, but in some cases the conception of the picture is characterised by an absurdly literal interpretation of the author's words. Thus (to take the most striking instance we can find), Mr. Townsend depicts the "neat-handed Phyllis" leaving her bower in haste—and he absolutely represents her holding her hands up as if to show us that they really are neat! "Genius alone can genius render," sang a young poet some ten years ago; but surely it requires only a small amount of taste, or even tact, to avoid the ridiculous. "L'Allegro" is the most popular of Milton's poems, and even among those persons who have never read it—or, perhaps, have never heard of it—there is not one who does not every now and then repeat unconsciously some of its lines. A man comes home from the opera, and talks of "Linked sweetmeats long drawn out;" or from a concert, and says that Mendelssohn's music should be "Married to immortal verse," or from a ball, and observes that he has been tripping it "on the light fantastic toe," and that Wilhelmnia was "The cynosure of neighbouring eyes;" and that Jimima the flirt was full of "Nods and becks and wretched smiles." "L'Allegro" is a poem that deserves well at the hands of the artists, being in itself full of pictures.

Gray's Poetical Works. Illustrated. London: S. Low and Son.

MESSRS. Sampson Low and Son's illustrated edition of Gray's "Poetical Works" is another of the handsome volumes recently brought out for the holiday and present-giving season. The designs are by Birket Foster (engraved by W. Palmer and E. M. Whimper); and the ornamental head and tail-pieces by W. Harry Rogers

[by Edmund Evans). Nearly all the illustrations are views, not exhibiting much poetical appreciation, are all executed in more or less taste. The design, suggested by the description of a scene who

"His him home at evening
Tossing to rest, and dreaming
Of a little picture; and the same may be said of the figure of the old man on the rock, "winded in the bushy, rugged vale." The head of the old man, by Henry... The design, suggested by the description of a scene who... We are told in the introduction to the "Poems of the... Spenser imitated the... Milton imitated on them;... this school expired soon after the Restoration... a new one arose... the French model, which has subsisted ever since... a true meaning of the word. The annotator has often... a poet, or he has never read the modern English ones... to Tennyson. What is there in the "Elegy," that reminds him... the French, and how does it happen that the beautiful and... English poem has been translated, as some are essentially... an in sentiment, into French, German, and at least... into Russian? After the eighteenth century, we find no poets in... except André Chénier and Béranger, who never had any in... in England, until we come to Victor Hugo, Lamartine, and... de Musset, all of whom, and especially, and confess for the... or, imitated Byron. The author of the notes to Gray should tell us... traces of French imitation are to be found in Byron, Shelley,... Wordsworth, Coleridge, Keats, and a host of other poets, before venturing... such a ridiculous statement as that in... statement for which, Frenchmen would laugh at him, and for which... French can only pity him.

The Family Friend. 2. Facts for Everybody. London: Ward and Lock.

The "Family Friend" is a monthly journal, devoted to information, addressed specially to families. It is one of the cheapest... ever published, and, in its own way, decidedly one of the... We learn from the preface to the last annual volume, that it has been in existence ten years, and... 1,000 volumes, and 1,800,000 monthly numbers. Its contents are of the most multifarious kind, ranging from... philosophy of puddings; and from rhetoric to... the volume before us, we find "notes and queries,"... try tales and sketches, fables and essays, side by side with... the operation of summer-drinks, remarks on corns, and... to those about to marry, and counsel on the destruction of... As if you want to make birds' nest pudding, or a blanc-manger, or to try... numbers, or to kipper salmon, or to stew celery, or to cultivate... or to catch butterflies, or to hunt elephants, or to do anything... if people usually or unusually want to do, from making love to... sing salads, all necessary information on the subject, wherever it... will be found in the "Family Friend." The volume for 1858... contains, moreover, a tale by the distinguished author of "Joseph... viny," which we have no doubt is highly interesting. From the... anecdotes scattered over the pages of our "Family Friend,"... select the following one concerning Douglas Jerrold, which we do... think will be found in Mr. Blanchard Jerrold's collection of his... father's sayings.

"Some twenty years ago, I told Douglas Jerrold that I had... to look at his proper... he spoke in terms of high admiration of it. He said it was... of the most perfect goodness of its kind, and that it was... it, it is indeed a book now, but those back-pain... their state of scratches from the sandy urinals who are given to... themselves in gratuitous riddles behind."

"One day, I repeated the old confectioner's story of the... the climbing tendencies of the young gentleman to wit... Spoke it not," rebuked the humorist, "I pronounced... half French manner, 'I am a Frenchman, and I have a French... on the hand of a foot—' led to whom a thin bit must have been..."

The Family Economist (New Series). 2. The Family Doctor. London: Houlston and Wright.

The "Family Economist" describes itself with justice "as an entertaining companion for town and country." Besides all kinds of household information, it contains papers on natural history, science, manufactures, &c., besides a series of very amusing tales of every-day life. "Mathew Martingale, the Man who knew a Horse when he saw one," is an excellent sketch. The story is well planned, and it is written with good humour and vivacity. Here is a specimen of the author's style:—"Mathew Martingale was fond of horse-flesh; no cat had ever a greater... of the article, though Mathew's taste was rather for the living thing, not the dead carion. Indeed, had his father been an Arab of the desert rather than a respectable sugar-broker in Mining Lane, the son would not earlier have exhibited his overwhelming love for the noble steed in question: he may be said to have loved it from his cradle. If for horse with its pictorial representation of that animal being... Mathew's favourite letter, and perhaps that was a reason why he never got well beyond it, the remaining portion of the alphabet seeming to present insurmountable difficulties to the young, though not apt scholar. His first present was a rocking-horse, and from the moment he set eyes upon the too fascinating toy, his bent in life was certain. The wooden-horse that passed the walls of Troy was not more fatal to the unfortunate inhabitants of that famous city, than the one his too generous uncle had presented to Mathew Martingale. From that time... boy thought of nothing, talked of nothing, but horses; he even... of them, and seemed rather to enjoy the 'nightmare' when... had had it than otherwise."

The "Family Doctor" belongs to the same family as the "Family Friend" and the "Family Economist," and the nature of its contents is sufficiently indicated by its title. We enjoy such excellent health... we have been unable to test the efficacy of the recipes recommended in the "Family Doctor," but we can testify to the care with which the work has been prepared, and to the generally interesting nature of its contents.

A THOUSAND APPLICANTS in Dublin for free education to New... Mr. Dobbs, on behalf of the inhabitants of that city, has secured upwards of 400 adults of both sexes; and many others expect soon to follow.

NEW MATERIAL FOR THE MANUFACTURE OF PAPER.—A Mr. Haughton patented a new process by which the refuse of flax straw can be made pulp, and then converted into the best linen paper. The process consisted in an application of alkali in a heat of nearly 100 degrees. Three tons of flax refuse, at from 20s. to 50s. per ton, can, it appears, be converted into a ton of pulp. The rags for the same amount of pulp would weigh a ton and a third; and the lowest price of rags is £15 per ton.

OPERA AND CONCERTS.

In spite of all the success that has attended the performances of the Pyne and Harrison Company, the experiment of carrying on an Opera... a single first and second, and a single prima donna may be said to have failed. It would have been a hazardous system to attempt even if the representation had only taken place three times a week; but it was impossible it could prosper when the same gentleman and the same lady appeared in the principal parts night after night without cessation. It was for Mr. Harrison, however, that Mr. H. Harrison, an excellent actor, and a friend of Miss Pyne, and as we must be the case, that lady on three occasions last... Fortunately, on Friday night there was sufficient... Miss Rebecca Isaacs, and secure her services for "Fra Diavolo," which, almost at the last moment, was substituted for the "Crown Diamonds." The "Trovatore" had been announced for Saturday, but again Miss Pyne was too unwell to appear, and again "Fra Diavolo" was performed, with Miss Rebecca Isaacs in the part of Zerlina, and Mr. Harrison as that of the brigand-musique. Certainly, no one seemed to be displeased by the change in the representation, and if any malcontents had been present, they must have been converted to satisfaction by the admirable manner in which the piece was executed. Mr. Mellon's hand could not have been better if the musicians had been assured that an encore was necessary in order to give time for the completion of the preparations. And the curtain. However that may have been, the overture was repeated in compliance with the wishes of the audience; and, from the rising of the curtain to the conclusion of the performance, everything went as well as if "Fra Diavolo" had been one of the stock pieces of the company. It is true the principal members of the Pyne and Harrison troupe have been in the habit of playing together in "Fra Diavolo" during their provincial tours; but Miss Isaacs, although not new to the part of Zerlina, was quite new to the company, and no general rehearsal with the Drury Lane orchestra and chorus had taken place. Considering, then, or even without considering, the disadvantages under which Auber's popular opera was produced, it is not surprising that it was played most creditably; but it must be remembered that the engagement of Miss Isaacs at the last moment was "only a fortunate accident." If she had been out of town, or had herself been suffering from bronchitis, it might have been found necessary to close the Drury Lane Theatre on Friday evening. No one belonging to the company was in readiness to take Miss Pyne's place. Happily a competent artist was found before it was too late; but no prudent manager would run such risks as are nightly incurred at Drury Lane, through the absence of a double set of principal singers. Sometimes, as on Friday evening, the indisposition of one of the chief performers may not be attended with any injurious effects to the theatre; but it is not becoming, nor, as a general rule, does it answer, to send out for a *sopranos* as you would send for a cab; besides which, a cab can always be found, whereas it is not so easy to find a vocalist of ability ready to sing at a moment's notice.

London audiences are not familiar with Mr. Harrison's "Fra Diavolo," which is, nevertheless, one of his best parts. Of course it is a great advantage for a singer to have such admirable music as that of Auber to sing, and Mr. Harrison showed, by his careful execution, that he fully appreciated its beauty. His acting, too, was more subdued than it usually is, though, of course, our English tenor looked ferociously brigand-like as contrasted with that pale copy of a sentimental swindler, presented to us at the Royal Italian Opera by Signor Gardoni.

Mr. Honey, as Lord Allesh, seems to have felt that after Ronconi's impersonation of the rich but absurd English nobleman, the force of humour could no further go, and he has accordingly abstained from introducing any humour at all into the part. Mr. Honey shows us a quiet, rapid, ridiculous English traveller of the present day, but that is not enough. Lord Allesh is a grotesque character, and has always been regarded as such, both in France and in England. As Mr. Honey's chief merit, as a comic actor, lies in his grotesqueness, it is strange that he should have omitted this very necessary element in his representation of the part.

The character of Beppo was taken by Mr. F. Glover, that of Lady Allesh by Miss Susan Pyne.

A Mozart concert was given last Saturday at the Crystal Palace, in honour of the great composer's death. It was a strange idea to celebrate the demise of Mozart, especially as it was only necessary to wait until January to have a fitting opportunity of commemorating his birth. But the concert took place on the day we have mentioned, and, putting aside the general inappropriateness of the affair, it went off most satisfactorily. The orchestra played a symphony, Mr. Faurer a concerto, and a variety of vocal music (chiefly from the "Zauberflöte") was executed by Mr. George Perren and Mr. and Mrs. Weiss. The weather was so bad that we cannot refrain from noticing it, but in spite of the darkness and the damp, the concert-room was crowded.

The "Cattle-Show Concerts," at the St. James's Hall, have been very successful. The winter is known not to be a very favourable season for music at the West-End, but the Baker Street exhibition has attracted thousands of rustics to the metropolis, and it was calculated that many of the number would find their way to the St. James's Hall if fitting entertainment were provided for them. People who have been listening to the grunting of pigs, the lowing of oxen, and the bleating of sheep in the morning, might find solace in the evening in less beautiful sounds than those that proceeded on Monday last, at the first of the "Cattle-Show Concerts," from the piano of Miss Goddard, and the violinello of Signor Piatti. Miss Dolby, Mr. and Mrs. Weiss, Miss Poole, and some other vocalists were also present, and the Swedish Singers executed four of their characteristic national melodies. Mr. Sims Reeves had been announced to sing, but he had reckoned without bronchitis, and, at the last moment, an apology had to be made for him.

THE DEATH OF BENJAMIN WYON, the medalist, is announced.

THE TRIAL OF THE RUSSIAN GENERALS accused of peculation during the campaign in the Crimea is to commence in January. The principal witness is a French corporal, retired from the service, who was taken prisoner in the Crimea, and having by accident discovered where the sum of 100,000 roubles was concealed, gave information to the Russian authorities.

A FRENCH MARSHAL'S AUTOBIOGRAPHY.—Marshal Vaillant having been written to by a shoe-smith of his own name for particulars concerning his family, the Marshal had the kindness to give the following most honourable account of his origin and career:—"You have addressed to me a good letter, and the person who wrote it must be a good-hearted man. I should be very proud of his relationship, though I do not know if we shall be able to make it apparent. My father, whom I had the misfortune to lose in 1823, was secretary of the district of Dijon, and afterwards secretary-general of the prefecture of the Côte d'Or in 1845; he was elected representative during the Cent-Jours, then deprived of his place at the prefecture, imprisoned as Bonapartist, &c. I was then in the army of the Loire. My father died poor, but I do not know that he had a single enemy. I do not resemble him in anything: he was thin, and I am stout—he was mild, and people find me cross; in fact, he had as many good qualities as they say I have faults, and I believe they are not mistaken. My father, who brought up a large family, was married to a Mademoiselle Canquin. A brother of my mother died at Genlis (Côte d'Or), an excellent man, whom we constantly regret. I have no child, and this is the greatest sorrow that God has given me. I was born at Dijon, on the 6th of December, 1790. I scarcely recollect my mother. We were poor, very poor. We were carefully and tenderly brought up, but in the midst of privations of every sort. My nurse still lives at Dijon. God has not made any being more devoted than she, who received us as infants, and tended us with a love which I cannot express; she has refused twenty offers of marriage to live with us, who, however, gave her trouble enough. I entered the Polytechnic School at the age of sixteen, and I left it to enter the engineers. The grade which has given us most pleasure was that of corporal at the Polytechnic School. I was in the Russian campaign of 1813, and was made prisoner at its conclusion. I was at Waterloo. I was wounded at the defence of Paris in 1815; I had a leg torn by a shell at the siege of Alesia in 1830. My chiefs said that they were pleased with me at the siege of Anvers in 1832. Such, sir, is my history, nearly complete. I shall be most happy if you find in it some proofs of a similarity of origin between your family and mine."

BRITISH FISHERIES. No. 5. CRAB & LOBSTER SHORES.

LOBSTERS are found on all parts of the coasts of England, Scotland, and Ireland which are rocky, or where the bottom is hard and much covered with sea-weed. Crabs are also found in all similar situations, but are also met with much more frequently in sandy coves, and are often dredged or trawled up from the bottom by vessels trawling for flat fish.

The manner in which crabs and lobsters are caught is exceedingly simple. A trap is prepared for them in the following manner:—Three or four hoops, about two feet diameter, are extended by as many small rods, forming a kind of skeleton tub; this framework is covered with ordinary-sized net, and at certain places holes are made in it, which are kept open by small hoops. A number of stones are then fastened to it to weight it, some pieces of fish cut up and fastened inside for bait, and the apparatus is lowered to the bottom of the sea, near the shore. The lobsters crawling along the bottom are attracted by the baits, and enter the trap through the holes prepared for them; these openings being tapered, by the stretching of the net on to the small hoops, give an easy access to the interior, but when the lobster endeavours to escape, he finds he cannot get his claws through, but is caught securely, as rats and mice are taken in wire traps of similar character. In some cases a wicker trap is used; this is of a slightly conical shape, and is made of open wicker-work, there being at the top of the basket a hole tapering downwards. The lobster seeking the bait climbs up the side of the basket, and descends through the hole to the interior, and, as in the former case, is unable to pass back again through the tapered aperture. These lobster traps are always called pots. The fisherman provides himself with as many as his boat will hold. Having arrived over the ground he thinks likely to be frequented by the fish, he lowers them to the bottom one after the other, so laying a row of them along the rocky ground. They are attached to each other by a line, and a buoy is placed over them that he may know where to find them again when he returns. He usually lays them down at night and draws them up in the morning. The demand for lobsters in England is enormous; and although they are caught in immense quantities all round the coast, yet the home supply does not nearly equal the demand; and the rocky coasts of Norway are ransacked to make up the deficiency. Norwegian lobsters are collected along the coasts in small boats by the local fishermen, and London smugglers so there to receive them. These smugglers have wells, as described in a former article, in which the lobsters are kept alive during their passage across the North Sea.

Great losses sometimes occur to those who carry on this business, and there is great difficulty in keeping the fish alive. The vessel must be kept continually moving, to prevent the water stagnating, for if it did it would kill the fish. When they reach the Thames, they are placed in boxes bored full of holes, and kept in the salt water until required at market. A few miles below Gravesend, there is a small inlet called Hole Haven, where a large depot of lobsters is made; an immense number of these boxes, ten or twelve feet square, are kept here, and a vessel lies with them to prevent depredations. They are overhauled every morning and the dead ones taken out. These are generally sold at Gravesend at once; the others are sent up to Billingsgate in small boats, to meet the daily requirements of the market.

THE GREAT EASTERN STEAMSHIP.

Up to within a very few days, all kind of pleasant remarks have been made as to the expected rate of the "Great Ship" at Dapford; but, for instance, that centuries hence, some of our colonial descendants, upon the shores of England, on archaeological expeditions, upon the vestiges of its gigantic frame, and regard it as the remains of some extinct animal. But these surmises are now at an end. The Great Eastern has been purchased by a new company for an annual tonnage of 1,000,000 tons, and with her original cost, and the fortunate speculation in which was lately looked upon as a lost cause, may be considered to have made a profitable investment, as her shares are in brisk demand. It is anticipated that the ship will be ready for sea by next May, and her first voyage will be from England to America, simply to convince the public of her superior speed and safety, after which she will be placed on the East-India line. From most rate calculations it is shown that she will accomplish the voyage to our Indian Empire in one month, thus competing with the overland route; and from her great size and capacity, will be able to carry goods cheaper than any other steamship. We have not the most remote idea of the magnitude of the enterprise, and are anxious to see the colossal project carried out, and the steamship and walk these for the first time.

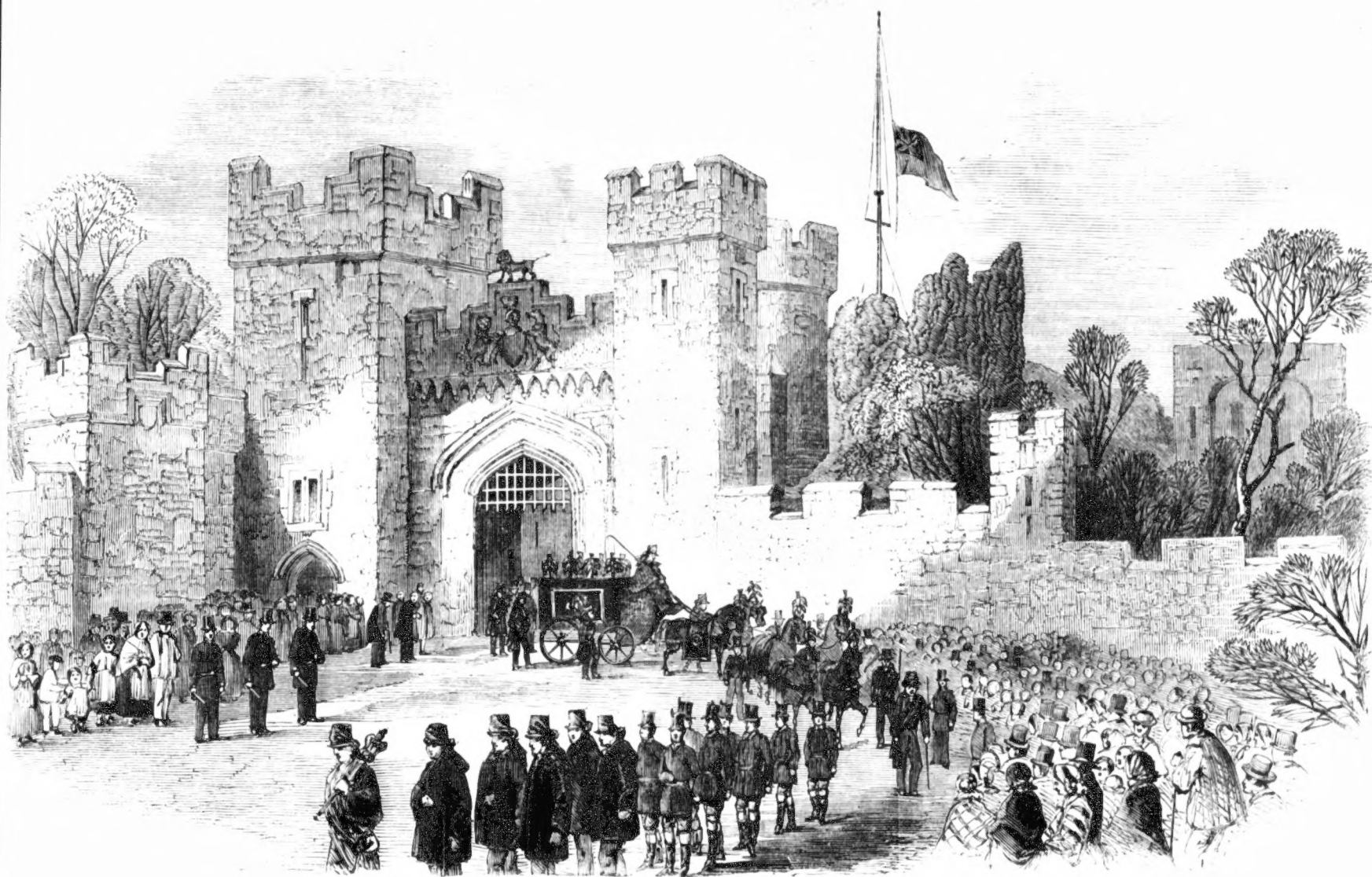
THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE LATE REV. RICHARD SHARPESHAVER, M.A., Fellow of Trinity College, have offered to give £10,000 stock, Three per Cent. Consols, for the promotion of the science of astronomy in the University.

ARMY CONTRACTS INQUIRY.—The Commissioners have this week extended their inquiries to the Tower, where the accounts are reported to be kept in a satisfactory manner. But here, too, there were instances of sound stores being sold at a loss, and bought at full price a few months afterward. It also came out that, for want of room, large quantities of muskets are stored in the ditch. At the same time, Mr. Elliot, an inspector at the Tower, gave a point blank contradiction to the charge that he had received bribes during the Crimean war.

AN EXECUTION IN AMERICA.—"Early as ten o'clock on the 12th of November, about eighty persons, who had been furnished with tickets of admission by the sheriff, were awaiting the time of execution within the walls. Without a large crowd, some 800 or 900, had collected. In Leonard Street there are three houses, from the roofs of which a tolerable view of the yard of the prison can be commanded, and these roofs were thronged with people, who, it was understood, had paid sums ranging from 10s. to 50s. each, for the privilege of seeing what they could see. The hour of execution was fixed by Sheriff Willitt at half-past eleven o'clock, and at that time there were about 100 spectators within the prison. At the time appointed the deputy-sheriff, deputed for the office, entered the cell of the condemned and pinioned him. Rogers said he was glad that the hour had arrived, and assisted as far as possible in the preparation for his death. The procession was formed, the sheriff and his deputy leading the way. Rogers followed with a firm step, between two of his reverend advisers, Fathers Curran and Sangumetti attending. The doctors followed, four in number, Dr. Coval, the resident physician of the city prison; Dr. Quackenbush, Dr. Woodward, and Dr. Barry. Rogers held a crucifix in his hand, and on the floor of the cell were a number of plaited grass, given him by Father Sangumetti, which he showed no trepidation. Even when he joined in the responses of the service for the dying, when the priests knelt and he attempted to kneel and was unable to do so because the rope around his neck restrained him, he did not flinch for one instant. He looked sickly, the consequence of thirteen months' confinement in a narrow cell, but otherwise he might have been supposed a spectator rather than the chief factor in the scene. At twenty-two minutes before twelve o'clock the rope was cut. For nearly a minute he swung round and vibrated to and fro, from the force of the ascent and the corresponding force of the fall. Then he commenced to struggle, and for eight minutes his quiverings were fearful. He so far loosened his right arm from the rope which pinioned him, that he was able to thrust his hand within his shirt-bosom, where he tore at his heart, as if there was the seat of all his pain. He had probably no consciousness—the doctors said the action was merely muscular and involuntary. After hanging forty minutes he was lowered and deposited in a plain stained coffin. His brother and a male relative—his brother-in-law, as was understood—entered the yard while he was suspended and received his remains. And then a terrible scene occurred. His mother, sister, and brothers were in the prison, awaiting the custody of his remains. On the coffin containing the body being brought into the outer yard, they threw themselves upon it, and the spectacle that followed was too harrowing for description."

WALLACHIAN COURIER IN A SNOW-DRIFT.

ANY ONE who has seen much of Continental travel, will frequently have noticed a certain class of *voyageur*, who never appears ruffled, and who mysteriously passes through the various ordeals to which tourists are subjected, unvexed and unimpeded. His passport is *en règle*, and his luggage cleared and out of the hands of the *domaniers*, before Jones has had an opportunity of answering the question, if he has anything to declare. *En route*, he betrays the most perfect indifference to the beauties of the scenery, and while others make despairing efforts at occasional stopping places, to procure a biscuit or an orange, is seen quietly partaking of soup and chicken. This fortunate

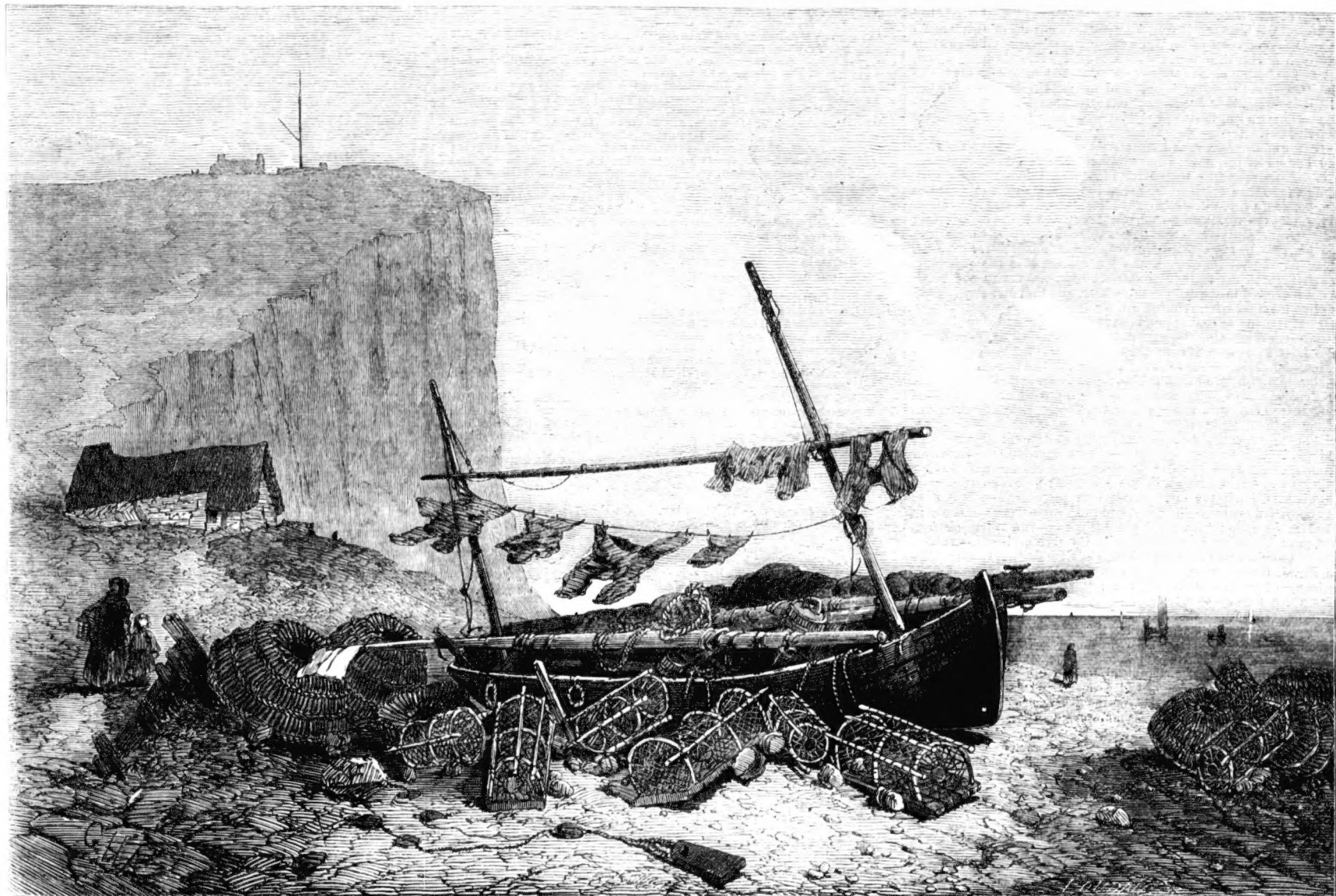


FUNERAL OF ADMIRAL LORD LYONS AT ARUNDEL CASTLE.—FROM A SKETCH BY EDWARD MARTIN.)

amous line of building from the nave of the church, and presents altogether a very imposing appearance. The vast building, in which the vault is situated, is in a somewhat dilapidated condition, and almost entirely devoid of ornament. At the eastern extremity of this, the

Mayor and Corporation took up their position, surrounding the mouth of the vault, at the foot of which stood the chief mourners, while the remainder of the cortege took their places around the interior of the building; and, as they stood with their uncovered heads during the

reading of the service, the ceremony was most impressive. The service concluded, slowly the body of Admiral Lord Lyons was lowered into its resting-place; and the last rite had been performed over the remains of as brave and a good a man as ever an English sea smiled on.



BRITISH FISHERIES, NO. 5: CRAB AND LOBSTER SHORE.—(DRAWN ON THE SPOT, BY G. H. ANDREWS.—SEE PAGE 395.)

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATION.—JAMES BROWN, Dundee, shipowner.

